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REGIONAL COUNCIL

GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

Progress with Community Outcomes 2009

10-Year Plan 2009-1910-Year Plan 2009-19

GREATER WELLINGTON

INTRODUCTION

I'm pleased to present Greater Wellington's first monitoring report on the region's community outcomes. The Local Government Act 2002 requires Greater Wellington to monitor and, not less than every three years, report on the community's progress towards achieving community outcomes. Each city and district council in the region will also have prepared similar monitoring reports.

The Wellington region has identified ten community outcomes – *Healthy environment, Quality lifestyle, Sense of place, Prosperous community, Prepared community, Connected community, Entrepreneurial and innovative region, Essential services, Healthy community and Strong and tolerant community.* These outcomes were initially developed through a community consultation process on the Wellington Regional Strategy – a sustainable economic growth strategy for the region.

We have selected a set of indicators to measure progress with these community outcomes. We have had to be pragmatic and choose indicators for which there is information available. In some instances, the information we would have liked is either not collected at all or is not available at the regional level. Furthermore, not all aspects of the community outcomes relate to Greater Wellington's functions. We have therefore had to collect data from a wide variety of sources. Drawing meaningful conclusions about such a wide range of data has been difficult and, in some cases, we have not attempted to do so.

This is our first monitoring report and we are aware that we can improve. We will be revising the community outcomes in the next three years and hope to make them more meaningful to the region and to Greater Wellington. We are also developing, through the Wellington Regional Strategy and in conjunction with all the local authorities in the region, a Genuine Progress Index (GPI). This is a way of monitoring a range of economic, environmental and social indicators and it is our intention to use the GPI as a way of monitoring progress with community outcomes in the future.

Greater Wellington has responded to the findings of this monitoring report by including work programmes in its *Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009-19* that will help the region to achieve the community outcomes.

This report is a snapshot in time. The current economic crisis means that much of the data we refer to may be already out of date. The global economy has changed radically in the last few months – and who knows where it will be in the next few months?

It is easy to feel gloomy when thinking about the economic downturn. However, this report shows that the Wellington region is a great place to live. Of course, there are things that need improvement, but overall we are lucky to live in a region with a relatively healthy environment, accessible open space and a well used public transport system. The region's potential is great – so let's all enjoy what we have and work to make things even better.

Fran Wilde
Chair, Greater Wellington

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

A healthy environment is one with clean water, fresh air and healthy soils. It is an environment with diverse and well functioning ecosystems, minimal waste and pollution.

Why is a Healthy Environment important?

While New Zealand's environmental issues are generally less severe than those in many other countries, there is no room for complacency.

A healthy environment is fundamental to personal well-being and health, to the economy and to the preservation of New Zealand's unique resources and way of life. The need to arrest the decline of New Zealand's plants, animals and ecosystems has become urgent. Using water sustainably, managing marine resources, reducing waste, and improving our energy efficiency are essential elements of a healthy environment and of achieving environmental sustainability.

A healthy environment in this region also contributes to the quality of the national and global environment.

Who and what influences the Healthy Environment outcome?

We all in different ways influence the health of the environment. At government level, the key players are the Ministry for the Environment which provides national policies, and the Department of Conservation which manages crown lands. Regional councils prepare and implement policies and plans and monitor the state of the environment. Local councils also affect this outcome.

Many non-governmental agencies and community groups also promote a healthy environment. Individuals have multiple environmental impacts in the decisions they make in their daily lives.

What have we focused on?

We have selected five focus areas for this outcome:

- Air quality
- Soil quality
- Ecosystem quality
- Waste and pollution
- Water quality and quantity

Fifteen indicators have been used to provide a picture.

INDICATORS FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Some indicators within the Essential Services outcome are also relevant to the Healthy Environment outcome.

AIR QUALITY	SOIL QUALITY	WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY	WASTE AND POLLUTION	ECOSYSTEM QUALITY
• Compliance with National Environmental Standards for Air Quality • Fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions	• Extent to which seven indicators of the chemical, physical and biological properties of soil meet target levels • Area of erosion prone land planted using sustainable management practices	• Nitrate concentrations in ground water • Water quality in rivers streams and lakes • Recreational water quality at bathing sites • Sustainability of groundwater levels and levels in rivers and aquifers	• Weight of material to landfills • Number of reported pollution incidents • Number of reported oil spills in harbours and coastal waters and response to oil spills • Perceptions of residents regarding – air pollution – water pollution (inc streams, rivers, lakes & sea) – noise pollution	• Ecosystem health in parks and forests • Ecosystem health in harbour, estuary and beach environments • Kilometres of stream and river margins subject to riparian enhancement

DATA SOURCES

2007/2008 Annual Monitoring Report on the Regional Land Transport Strategy, Greater Wellington Regional Council

Measuring Up: State of the Environment Report for the Wellington Region 2005, Greater Wellington Regional Council

The State of our Environment, Annual Summary 2007/08, Greater Wellington Regional Council

Annual Report 2007/08, Greater Wellington Regional Council

Annual Report 2007/08, All territorial local authorities of the region

Quality of Life Survey 2008, AC Nielsen

AIR QUALITY

INDICATORS

COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR AIR QUALITY

Greater Wellington monitors the real-time concentrations in the air of three key pollutants - particulate matter (PM_{10}), carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. If levels of identified pollutants are too high, people's health can suffer. The effects range from respiratory irritation to premature death for people with existing heart and lung disease. The National Environmental Standards for Air Quality 2004 set standards for ambient (outdoor) air quality. They are designed to protect those who are particularly vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, such as children and the elderly. Selected sites in the region have been monitored for some years and additional monitoring stations were installed at Tawa and Karori during 2007/08.

FUEL CONSUMPTION AND CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

Total diesel and petrol sales in the region is the best measure available for total fuel consumption (although some non-retail sales occur, and some fuel is purchased outside the region but used in it (and vice versa)). Because fuel is not necessarily used in the area in which it is purchased, sub-regional data evaluation would add little value.

Carbon dioxide is the most common and significant greenhouse gas formed from the combustion of fossil fuels. Total fuel consumed (and consequently combusted) is directly correlated to the amount of carbon dioxide produced. Carbon dioxide emission levels for the region have been calculated from fuel consumption using production rates from the 2005 Ministry of Transport Vehicle Fleet Emissions Model (VFEM). The factors are 2.3 kg of CO_2 per litre of petrol and 2.6 kg/litre for diesel.

Greater Wellington's Regional Land Tranpsort Strategy Monitoring Report provides this data.

WHAT WE FOUND

On the whole, the Wellington region has had a low level of air pollution over the last three years and it is relatively low in comparison with both Auckland and Canterbury. Of the three pollutants which Greater Wellington measures, (particulate matter, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides), the region has only exceeded national standards on measures of particulate matter.

Particulate matter created several incidents of air pollution exceeding standards during this period:

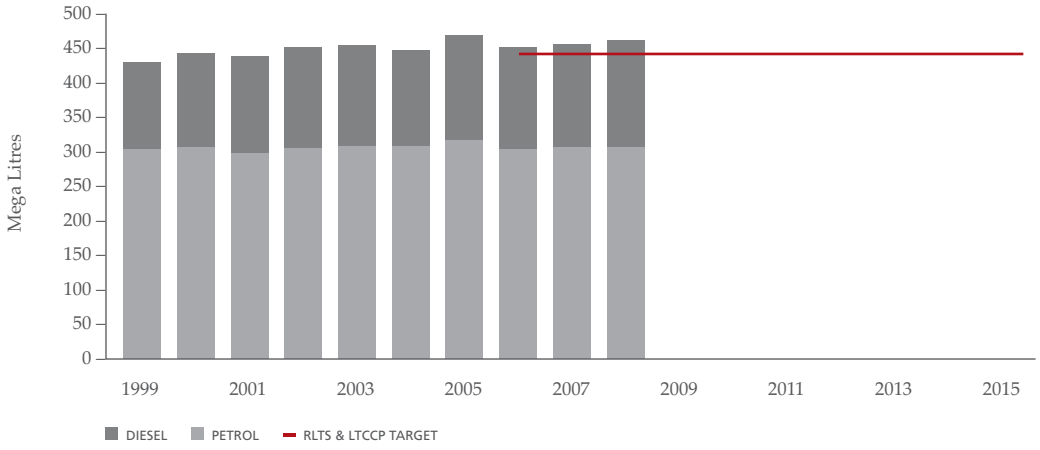
- three high pollution nights recorded in one airshed in Masterton (2005/06)
- one night in Wainuiomata and in Tawa (winter 2007) and
- three nights in Masterton (winter 2008)

In 2007/08 there were 11 days in Masterton, seven days in Tawa, three days in Wainuiomata, and two days in Upper Hutt where air quality reached the "alert" level (ie, exceeding 66% of the standard). There was also one day in Wainuiomata and in Tawa when the national standard was exceeded.

While a number of factors contribute to the creation of particulate matter, domestic fires continue to be the main cause for pollution over the winter months, especially on still, cold and clear evenings. Masterton, Upper Hutt, Wainuiomata and Tawa are the most susceptible to pollution from domestic fires. Smoke containing particulate matter (PM10) builds up in valleys and is not dispersed until the following morning when the ground heats up and the air starts to circulate.

The burning of diesel and petrol fuels also contributes to particulate matter pollution but contributes more strongly to the production of carbon monoxide. While the region did not exceed national standards for carbon monoxide over the last three years, it is not meeting the target set through the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007-2016 for a decrease in fuel consumption, designed to reduce adverse impacts on the environment. The target is that that "no more than 442 mega litres of petrol and diesel per annum will be used for transport purposes". In 2005, 464 mega litres were consumed. While there was a decrease in 2006, the trend downwards reversed in 2007 and 2008 with total regional fuel sales of 463 million litres in 2008 (Graph 1.1).

GRAPH 1.1: FUEL (DIESEL AND PETROL) CONSUMPTION (MEGA LITRES), WELLINGTON REGION.



SOURCE Local authorities in the Wellington region

Fuel sales in the western part of the region (where 86% of regional fuel is sold annually) experienced growth of 1.3% over the previous year. Wairarapa fuel sales increased by only 0.1% overall.

Petrol consumption decreased by less than 1% in both parts of the region (by 1 million litres to 308 million litres), but diesel use increased by 7 million litres to 155 million litres in 2008. Diesel consumption in the more urban, western region increased by 5.5% in 2008, indicating increased uptake of diesel-powered private vehicles. The new diesel vehicles are more fuel efficient than their petrol counterparts, although diesel does emit more carbon dioxide than petrol per kilometre travelled.

In 2008 land transport fuel combustion produced 1,113 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide in the Wellington region, a 1.3 % (14 kilotonnes) increase. There was a similar increase between 2006 and 2007.

SOIL QUALITY

INDICATORS

CHEMICAL PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF SOIL

Greater Wellington assesses soil quality using a set of seven chemical, physical and biological properties that describe the dynamic aspects of soil health (such as soil structure, and carbon and nutrient content). Targets are set that are relevant to land-use types. Samples are also analysed for metals, such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead and zinc.

The soil monitoring programme started in 2001 and now covers 118 sites on land used for arable cropping, horticulture, market gardens, pasture and indigenous vegetation. Around a quarter of the 118 sites are sampled each year. The monitoring programme is still young; resampling three to five times will allow better gauging of change over time.

WHAT WE FOUND

The most recent results in 2007/08 show that low macroporosity (an indication of soil compaction) was the soil quality indicator most often outside of target ranges. This has been a consistent result over the sampling period, but there has been no overall decline in macroporosity–a result that mirrors other parts of New Zealand. Macroporosity losses are a general result of pastoral land-use practices. As less water can get into the lower soil profile, shallow groundwater reserves are not so well recharged and there is a risk of nutrient and sediment-rich run-off contaminating nearby streams.

Another continuing characteristic for pasture soils has been shown to be sub-optimal nutrient levels but, like macroporosity, there has not been a significant change over the sampling period. Sampling of market garden soils in 2005-06 showed that they are continuing to lose soil organic matter.

Over the three year period, 2005-08, more than half of the sites tested failed to meet the target on one indicator only (usually soil compaction), with a few sites (five in 2006/07 and one in 2007/08) being outside the range for three or more indicators.

Heavy metal (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, nickel, lead and zinc) concentrations in the soil met health guidelines in 2007/08 though they were slightly higher than in 2001-2004. At that earlier time, they were very low compared with concentrations in other parts of New Zealand.

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

INDICATORS

NITRATE CONCENTRATIONS IN GROUNDWATER

Greater Wellington monitors groundwater quality at 70-80 sites around the region. The water is tested every three months for a wide range of physical and chemical parameters, including bacteria, nutrients and metals. More localised surveys are undertaken to assess the impacts of land use activities, such as farming and on-site wastewater disposal.

WATER QUALITY IN RIVERS, STREAMS AND LAKES

Greater Wellington has in place a water quality index and monitors the quality of rivers and streams using six indicators (water clarity, dissolved oxygen, dissolved reactive phosphorous, nitrite-nitrate nitrogen, ammoniacal nitrogen and *Escherichia coli*).

RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY AT BATHING SITES

Recreational water quality is measured by Greater Wellington throughout the bathing season at coastal and freshwater sites across the region. National recreational water quality guidelines exist against which recreational bathing water is measured. 280 enterococci/ 100mL is the level of contamination at which action is required.

SUSTAINABILITY OF GROUNDWATER LEVELS AND LEVELS IN RIVERS AND AQUIFERS

Weather patterns and water extraction affect groundwater levels and levels of water in streams and rivers. Ecosystems can be affected if too much water is extracted. The demands for water use from residents, industry, agriculture and horticulture have to be balanced against the health of the environment.

WHAT WE FOUND

QUALITY OF GROUNDWATER

Untreated groundwater is the main potable water source for many residents outside main urban areas and towns. Protecting the shallow groundwater through balancing nutrient application to the pasture requirements, careful effluent management and effective on-site wastewater disposal, is important to help protect this valuable resource.

Elevated levels of nitrate-nitrogen indicate that land uses, such as dairying and dry-stock farming, and septic tanks, are affecting groundwater. Though elevated levels were found in all three years, 2005-08, these only exceeded the drinking water standard (11.3 mg/L) in 2006/07.

Results for the three year period 2005-08 are summarised below:

- 44% of sites in unconfined or semi-confined aquifer systems (these are the most vulnerable groundwater systems) showed elevated levels of nitrate-nitrogen in 2005/06
- monitoring of 71 bores identified high nitrate levels in four bores in 2006/07. The sampling results revealed nine samples (from four irrigation bores in Kapiti and the Wairarapa) with high nitrate levels The highest nitrate-nitrogen concentration recorded was 12.3 mg/L (the drinking water standard is 11.3 mg/L)
- in 2007/08 high nitrate-nitrogen concentrations were recorded in many of the region's aquifers.

Contamination levels were highest in shallow aquifers, correlating with more intensive land use. Nitrate-nitrogen concentrations were high (between 7-11.3 mg/L) in seven boreholes but no concentrations exceeded the drinking water standard (11.3 mg/L).

QUALITY OF WATER IN RIVERS, STREAMS AND LAKES

The best water quality across the region is in streams and rivers that flow through bush with little human influence. These are sites on rivers flowing out of the Aorangi, Tararua and Rimutaka ranges and include the Hutt, Tauanui, Waiorongomai, and Tauherenikau rivers, and the upper reaches of the Otaki, Waikanae, Wainuiomata, Waiohine and Ruamahanga rivers.

Once out of the bush cover of the ranges, the influence of the agricultural and urban land uses takes over and the water quality declines. Water quality is poorest in urban streams and in streams at the bottom of agricultural catchments with smaller streams being affected the most by intensive land use (refer to results for 2007/08 below).

The results from the monitoring programme for the three year period 2005-08 are mixed.

On the one hand, of the 56 river and stream sites monitored, there was an increase in the number where water quality complied with guidelines for all six water quality indicators used to measure overall stream health. There were nine sites in 2005/06 and 19 in the other two periods.

Another 14 sites in 2005/06, nine in 2006/07 and ten in 2007/08 exceeded the guideline value for just one indicator – these sites are classed as having good water quality overall.

On the other hand, in 2007/08, almost half of the river and stream sites monitored exceeded two or more guidelines and were classed as having only fair or poor water quality, reflecting the large proportion of the region that is in agricultural, and to a lesser extent urban, land use.

In each year, the indicators that failed the guidelines most often were dissolved reactive phosphorus, water clarity, and *Escherichia coli* bacteria.

The sites with the poorest water quality in 2005/06 were the Mangapouri and Waiwhetu streams, and the Mangatarere and Tauweru rivers. Sites with poor water quality in 2006/07 included the Mangaone, Mangapouri, Ngarara and Mangatarere streams, and the Whangaehu River.

Rivers and streams with poor water quality in 2007/08 included the Whangaehu River and the Mangaone, Mangapouri, Ngarara and Porirua streams.

All these waterways have catchments heavily influenced by either intensive agricultural or urban land use, or a combination of the two.

QUALITY OF COASTAL AND FRESHWATER BATHING

Over the three year period, 2005-08, coastal recreational bathing water quality has been good at most of the beaches over the summer period. However, some sites did not meet bathing standards at the time of measuring.

Coastal water quality was suitable for swimming on all sampling occasions at 47 of the 76 beaches monitored in 2005/06, at 46 of the sites in 2006/07, and in 2007/08, at 34 of the 77 sites monitored.

The guideline was exceeded only once at 19 further sites in 2005/06, 24 sites in 2006/07 and in 2007/08, at 26 sites.

In 2005/06, four sites on the Kapiti Coast exceeded the "action" guideline on three or more occasions. On one occasion in early February, a health warning sign was erected at Paraparaumu Beach after follow-up sampling showed the "action" guideline was still being exceeded.

In 2006/07, two sites – South Beach at Plimmerton and Robinson Bay in Eastbourne – exceeded the "action" level on more than two occasions. Health warning signs were erected at bathing sites around Pauatahanui Inlet in late December 2006 because follow-up sampling results showed that bacteria levels were still high.

In 2007/08, 11 sites exceeded the guideline on two occasions and six sites exceeded three times. Health warning signs were erected at Titahi Bay in mid December, at the rowing club in Porirua Harbour in early January, and at Owhiro Bay in mid February after routine and follow-up sampling showed the "action" guideline was still being exceeded.

In 2006/07, there were 38 instances in total where sites exceeded the "action" guideline, eight fewer than the 2005/06 summer. More than two thirds of these coincided with at least 10 mm of rainfall in the three days prior to sampling, with more than a third associated with 10 mm or more of rainfall in the 24 hours prior to sampling.

When a major lahar flowed down the Whangaehu River from Mount Ruapehu on 18 March 2007, vast amounts of rotting leaves and other debris were discharged to coastal waters south of Wanganui. Two days later the effects were seen on the Kapiti Coast with all monitoring sites along Otaki and Te Horo beaches exceeding the action guideline. For three of these four sites, it was the only time the guideline was exceeded all summer.

In 2007/08, 60% of the 66 occasions where sites exceeded the "action" guideline coincided with at least 10 mm of rainfall in the three days prior to sampling and 36 per cent coincided with more than 10 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours prior to the day of sampling.

The high correlation between rainfall events and elevated bacteria counts in coastal waters relates to runoff from the land entering stormwater systems, rivers and streams and discharging to the coast. Pollution in rivers and streams can also affect water quality at some beaches during dry weather, as can re-suspension of sediments from wind and tidal action.

Freshwater bathing quality in rivers and streams is also impacted by rainfall and rivers are often unsuitable for swimming during and shortly after rain.

Fourteen of the twenty-three freshwater sites monitored over the 2005-06 summer exceeded the "action" level (550 E. *coli*/100 mL) of the national freshwater bathing microbiological water quality guidelines. For the 2006/07 period, sixteen of the twenty freshwater sites monitored exceeded the guideline and for the 2007/08 period sixteen of twenty-one sites monitored exceeded the guideline.

The guideline was exceeded on two or more occasions at 12 sites in 2005/06, 7 sites in 2006/07 and 6 sites in 2007/08.

The Hutt River has exceeded the "action" guideline on more than one occasion every year for the last three years (at Silverstream in 2005/06 and 2006/07 and at Boulcott in 2006/07 and 2007/08).

In 2005/06, two sites – the Hutt River at Silverstream and Riversdale Lagoon – exceeded the "action" guideline on six occasions.

In 2006/07, the Hutt River at both Silverstream and Boulcott exceeded the "action" guideline three times, while the Ruamahanga River at Te Ore Ore exceeded the guideline on five occasions.

In 2007/08, as well as having the highest number of "action" level exceedances, the Hutt River at Boulcott also exceeded the "alert" level guideline (260 E. *coli*/100 mL) six times.

Almost 90% of the cases where freshwater sites exceeded the "action" guideline coincided with at least 10 mm of rainfall in the three days before sampling. Rainfall events cause high bacteria levels to be washed into rivers and streams via urban and agricultural runoff, and also stir up contaminated stream sediment.

Thick growths of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) were observed on the beds of the Otaki, Waikanae, Hutt, Waipoua and Ruamahanga rivers in February 2007. Some cyanobacteria produce toxins that can harm people and animals, with dogs most at-risk because of their higher likelihood of eating algae. Health warning signs were put up in Kapiti and a general region-wide warning was issued by Regional Public Health in February.

SUSTAINABILITY OF WATER LEVELS

Greater Wellington has authorised a substantial increase in groundwater use in the region over the last 10 years. Most of this increase has been in the Wairarapa, where a high demand for irrigation water has seen the allocated volume more than double from 200,000 cubic metres per day in 1996 to over 400,000 cubic metres per day in 2006. Allocation in the Hutt aquifers has stayed at around 100,000 cubic metres per day over this time because the main aquifer system, the Lower Hutt groundwater zone, has been fully allocated (87% for public water supply) for a number of years. Increasing abstraction on the Kapiti coast – now approaching 100,000 cubic metres per day – is mainly to supplement Kapiti Coast District Council's surface water abstraction for public water supply and is only used when water levels in the Waikanae River are too low to allow water to be taken.

Levels of groundwater, aquifers and rivers are dependent on rainfall levels, and are vulnerable to the impact of climate change and less predictable weather conditions, along with increased demand for water.

A summary of the three year period 2005-08 follows.

2005/06 saw a record low in some aquifers across the region and very low river flows across the region.

An unusually dry spring in 2005, especially on the Kapiti coast, resulted in very low river flows for that time of year and lower than average recharge to rainfall-fed aquifers. This led to record low groundwater levels occurring in aquifers over much of the Kapiti coast throughout summer and well into winter.

Overall, river flows were lower than normal throughout spring and into summer, triggering restrictions on water permits. River flows in the Hutt River were well below average and more stable than normal, particularly during August, September and November.

An exceptionally wet winter in the Wairarapa led to shallow groundwater levels reaching record highs. In many areas the water table reached the ground surface and springs were seen in areas where they had never been noticed before.

2006/07 saw some extreme weather conditions, with floods following the storms of July 2006 and then a relatively dry summer, after which the weather got even drier with rainfall in autumn (March to May) less than half the long-term average for the season in many parts of the region. It was the second driest autumn in 118 years.

The July storms resulted in very high river flows in many of the region's rivers including the Wainuiomata, Mangaroa, Ruamahanga and eastern Wairarapa rivers.

The wet spring resulted in higher than average recharge to rainfall-fed aquifers, particularly in the Wairarapa. This led to high groundwater levels in shallow aquifers, with many aquifers reaching record highs.

In contrast, autumn 2007 was drier than average. This resulted in high water levels falling back to average or below average. Deeper confined aquifers on the Kapiti Coast and in the Wairarapa did not respond as strongly to these weather extremes. While they recovered to average levels after the wet spring, they generally fell back to below average later in the year, reflecting abstraction pressures and long-term effects of reduced recharge over the last decade.

2007/08 was an extremely dry year resulting in minimal recharge of the region's shallow aquifers and all-time low groundwater levels in many aquifers. La Nina conditions led to a drought in the Wellington region from late spring 2007 through until autumn 2008, with very low rainfall in the Wairarapa, Tararua Range and parts of the Hutt Valley. The onset of the drought was unusually early, with particularly low rainfall during November and record-low December river flows in some parts of the region. The drought was one of the worst five droughts of the last 40 years in the Wairarapa and Hutt Valley, in terms of the number of days with a significant soil moisture deficit.

The lack of winter recharge led to below average groundwater levels in spring 2007 in the region's main aquifers, particularly in the Wairarapa and Kapiti Coast. The long dry summer of 2007/08 led to greater demand for groundwater for irrigation and municipal water supply and this was reflected in all-time low groundwater levels in many areas. The groundwater levels in the Waiwhetu aquifer were above the minimum throughout the year. However, there were a number of reports of shallow boreholes that do not fully penetrate aquifers 'drying up'.

The drought was broken by rainfall in many places towards the end of March 2008, although in the eastern Wairarapa hills drought conditions persisted through until May. By June, river flows and soil moisture had returned to about normal levels for the time of the year. These conditions led to restrictions (as in 2005/06) on water takes from rivers very early in the summer.

Resource consents compliance reports show that there was overall compliance with all water permits.

WASTE AND POLLUTION

INDICATORS

WEIGHT OF MATERIAL TO LANDFILLS

The responsibility for waste management lies chiefly with city and district councils. In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, they have all prepared waste management plans that set out how waste is managed in their district. City and district councils in the region together collate information about the volumes and kinds of solid waste arriving at landfills, and the volume of materials that are recycled. Annual Reports of the councils have been researched for relevant data.

NUMBER OF REPORTED OIL SPILLS IN HARBOURS AND COASTAL WATERS AND RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS

Oil spills can create environmental damage to marine ecosystems as well as being a saftey hazard. Greater Wellington records all reported oil spills and the timeliness of response to them

NUMBER OF REPORTED POLLUTION INCIDENTS

For both environmental and public health purposes, Greater Wellington records all reported environmental pollution incidents, investigates and cleans up whenever necessary and possible. Pollution incidents include contaminated waterways, dust, sediment and, most commonly, odour.

PERCEPTIONS OF RESIDENTS' REGARDING AIR POLLUTION, WATER POLLUTION (INCLUDING STREAMS, RIVERS, LAKES & SEA), AND NOISE POLLUTION

The 2008 Quality of Life Survey[1] asked respondents whether air pollution, water pollution (including pollution in streams, rivers and lakes) and nosie pollution had been a problem in their local area over the last twelve months.

WHAT WE FOUND

WASTE DISPOSAL

Seven of the eight councils in the area are responsible for the disposal of solid waste. All are seeking to minimize the amount of waste material which goes to landfill, both for environmental reasons and to minimise costs of developing and managing landfills.

Kapiti District Council aims to recycle all waste by 2015. The Council reports that its volume of general waste to landfill in 2007/08 was 44,000 tonnes, approximately the same as the previous two years and more than was deposited in 2004 (36,000 tonnes). From 2004-08 there was an average of 100 tonnes per annum of paper/cardboard and 900-1,000 tonnes per annum of glass.

In 2008, the Council began a kerbside recycling service. The goal is to recycle all waste by 2015.

[1] The Quality of Life Survey is a telephone survey of residents across the region.
The sample size was 1962 with a maximum margin of error ranging from +/- 2.5% to +/- 9.3% at a 95% confidence level.

Porirua residents deposited 111,542 tonnes of waste in their landfill in 2007/08 and 111,403 in the previous year. In both years this was higher than the council's target of 111,000 tonnes, though in 2007/8 the target was exceeded by the deposit of clean landfill which could not be utilised as landfill cover. Porirua City Council operates Trash Palace for recycling of re-useable material and has greatly exceeded its targets for the volume of material recycled in this way. While the target was only 600 tonnes, actual volume in 2006/07 was 1,011 tonnes and this was again exceeded in 2007/08 with 1279 tonnes of material.

The volume of material going to landfill in *Wellington City* reduced between 2006/07 and 2007/08, from 73,216 tonnes to 67,751 tonnes. Recyclable material diverted from the landfill in 2007/08 was 36,808 tonnes up from 33,500 in 2006/07. Kerbside recycling also increased between the two years from 11,630 tonnes to 11,989 tonnes, through this volume is not yet quite reaching the Council's target.

In the *Hutt City* council area, landfills received 0.4% more solid waste than in the previous year at 131,282 tonnes, though 326 tonnes of material were removed and /repaired /reused/recycled. In addition, there was an 11% increase to 7,318 tonnes of material collected from kerbside and recycling stations.

Upper Hutt reduced the weight of refuse collected per average household by 9.5% in 2007/08 compared with a target of 2.5%. Recycling increased to 145 kg per household per year from 93 kilos in 2006/07 against a target of 110 kg. Households are continuing to recycle more waste with 1379 tonnes recycled in 2006/07 compared with 1260 tones in 2004/5.

Masterton District Council has a target of decreasing their tonnage of waste going into their transfer station to landfill by 3% per year. In 2007/8, they achieved a 4% increase.

The volume of waste arriving at landfills in the region has been falling since 2000. However, indications are, from surveys of the types of waste deposited in landfills regionally, that only about a fifth of the materials that can be recycled – glass, plastic and paper – is actually sent by the community for recycling.

OIL SPILLS

The record of oil spills reveals the following information:

2003/04	there were 5 significant oil spills, all of which were cleaned up quickly
2004/05	no significant oil spills
2005/06	there were 24 oil spill reports, but only one required clean-up work
2006/07	there were 22 reports of oil spills; all were minor and only six required clean-up action

POLLUTION INCIDENTS

Greater Wellington's aim is to reduce the number of pollution incidents through promotional and educational activities, particularly for business and for developers. The number of reported incidents has been showing the desired downward trend. From a level of 1579 reported incidents in 2005/06, there was a decline to 1264 in 2006/07, but this number increased again in 2007/08 to 1376.

RESIDENT PERCEPTIONS OF POLLUTION

Water and noise pollution had been a problem for about a third of residents (35% and 30% respectively) but fewer people had experienced a problem with air pollution (11%). Water pollution appeared to be more of a problem in Porirua (43%) and the proprotion of those reporting problems with water, noise and air pollution was significantly higher in the Hutt Valley (45%, 37% and 15% respectively) compared with the region as a whole.

ECOSYSTEM QUALITY

INDICATORS

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IN PARKS AND FORESTS

Greater Wellington has begun to carry out vegetation plot assessments which look at the age class structure of trees in an area. Together with bird counts in selected areas, these assessments provide the basis for considering whether there are changes in ecosystem quality.

KILOMETRES OF STREAM AND RIVER MARGINS SUBJECT TO RIPARIAN ENHANCEMENT

Greater Wellington works with landowners to manage stream and river margins to both improve water quality and protect biodiversity. Greater Wellington currently measures this activity in terms of kilometres of stream and river banks which have been enhanced and continue to be maintained.

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IN HARBOUR, ESTUARY AND BEACH ENVIRONMENTS

Greater Wellington began monitoring coastal ecology in 2004 with broad scale surveys being undertaken of coastal habitats and fine-scale sediment, and ecological assessments undertaken at representative locations of selected estuaries and sandy beaches. The conclusions of these surveys to date, together with the assessments, are used in this report.

WHAT WE FOUND

In common with most of New Zealand, much of the region's biodiversity is in a depleted state. Clearance for agriculture and settlements since the arrival of humans has significantly reduced and fragmented our natural ecosystems. Ecological processes are impaired as a result of fragmentation and the presence of plant and animal pests in most ecosystems.

During 2007/08, animal and plant pest control was undertaken in 10 wetlands, four dune ecosystems, six coastal escarpments, six riparian/estuarine sites and 70 native forest sites. In 2007/08, 4.5 km of riparian margins were under management and during 2008/09 further kilometres will be planted. The 2007/08 report on River and Stream Health states the following for the three catchments undergoing riparian rehabilitation since 2002: "While the riparian vegetation is still of a relatively young age, some improvements are already apparent. Benefits observed so far include improved aesthetic values, increased vegetation cover and streambed shade, increased bank stability, improved aquatic environment and reduced water temperatures. Further benefits are expected as riparian vegetation matures." The report, nevertheless, adds that the improvements are limited by continuing contaminants in the water ways from agricultural and urban land use.

While comprehensive bird counting programmes do not exist, bird life appears to have improved generally in the region, largely because of pest control. Wellington city has seen a significant increase in native bird numbers over the past decade. Eight species have increased through effective predator control throughout the town belt. Karori Wildlife Sanctuary now has populations of little grey kiwi, North Island robins, tom-tits, bellbirds, stitch birds, saddlebacks, and kaka all of which are breeding successfully. It also has breeding tuatara. Kiwi have been released into the Rimutaka Forest Park.

Vegetation plot assessments have also shown improvements in the age class structure of forests with pest control again a significant cause of this improvement.

Greater Wellington's programme of monitoring the health of ecosystems for harbours, estuaries and beaches provided the following information:

- testing of sediments from the Wellington Harbour sea floor found elevated concentrations of stormwater-derived contaminants, but there is no clear evidence that the sea–bed ecosystem has suffered significant adverse effects
- an ecological vulnerability assessment of Lake Onoke confirms that there is cause for concern about the effects on the ecology from agricultural effects, reclamation and development, human recreational use of the area and current practices regarding lake level control
- the Porirua Harbour is moderately eutrophic (nutrient rich) and has a moderate risk of sedimentation accumulation, signaling that there is room for improvement in the health of the harbour
- the ecological condition of the Whareama Estuary is "fair" to "good" but the very muddy and poorly oxygenated sediments are not ideal for plants and animals
- Castlepoint Beach is in good ecological condition.

It is noticeable that there has been an ongoing growth in community involvement, through community projects, in restoring important degraded ecosystems. This suggests that the need to protect and manage the threats to our unique biodiversity is becoming more widely understood.

What does all this tell us?

As in New Zealand as a whole, the Wellington region generally enjoys a healthy environment. Many council policies across all councils are directed towards achieving that outcome at levels which are considerably more ambitious than they would have been a decade ago. For example, the increased focus on keeping solid waste from landfills to avoid longer term environmental problems is significant. The increased focus on biodiversity and the protection of ecosystems has also involved councils and other agencies in vigorous attempts to better understand aspects of our natural environment so that strategies can be developed to protect and enhance it.

It is clear that residents of the region are aware of environmental health issues. About a third of the region's residents feel that water and noise pullution have been a problem in their local area. Various surveys in the past have shown that water quality is the number one environmental issue for people. It is clear that there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that the quality of all our lakes, rivers and streams improve.

Equally, there will need to be on-going work to restore vulnerable environments which have been damaged by the accumulated human impacts of the past and to manage further impacts proactively.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington's *Proposed 10 -Year Plan 2009 -19* provides for the continuation of the following activities:

- developing and implementing the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans
- continuing a resource consent service
- measuring the quality and quantity of the region's natural resources, eg, river flows, aquifer levels, air quality, soil health, and coastal water
- carrying out regular monitoring programmes in each of the parks and forests areas, including bird counts, tree profiles, plant and animal infestations and vegetation densities
- researching key environmental issues and threats
- reporting to the public on the state of the environment
- investigating and cleaning-up pollution incidents
- helping children, businesses and the community to look after and restore the environment
- promoting river and streams water quality through the urban stream management strategy, through riparian rehabilitation projects, and through land management initiatives to protect land from erosion
- managing parks and forests so that they support biodiversity and water quality and quantity
- undertaking animal and plant pest eradication programmes

It will also:

- establish a network-wide system for monitoring trees and plants planted in forests and parks and their survival rate and report on the health of ecosystems in parks and forests using the monitoring results
- develop a Regional Water Strategy

QUALITY LIFESTYLE

QUALITY LIFESTYLE

Living in the Wellington region is enjoyable and people feel safe. A variety of lifestyles can be pursued. Our art, sport, recreation and entertainment scenes are enjoyed by all community members and attract visitors.

Why is a Quality Lifestyle important?

If the region can provide a quality lifestyle, there will be vibrancy among the community's members, business will locate here because talented people live here, and visitors will enhance the prosperity of the region.

What and who influence the Quality Lifestyle outcome?

The quality of our lifestyles is affected by the physical environment in which we live, the prosperity of the region, and the amenities and recreational opportunities that central government, local government and the private sector provide. Lifestyle quality is also influenced positively and negatively by other individuals in our communities. Law enforcement agencies influence this outcome.

What have we focused on?

Three focus areas have been selected for this outcome:

- visitor attraction
- resident satisfaction
- safety

Thirteen indicators have been used to give a picture of the three focus areas.

INDICATORS FOR QUALITY LIFESTYLE

VISITOR ATTRACTION	RESIDENT SATISFACTION	SAFETY
• Number of guest nights • Rate of accommodation occupancy	• Satisfaction with leisure time • Satisfaction with work / life balance • Quality of life of residents • Satisfaction with life in general • Ease of access to local park or other green space • User satisfaction with regional parks, forests and recreation areas	• Sense of safety • Perceptions of safety of unsupervised children in local neighbourhood • Perceptions of crime and other undesirable problems • Crime rates • Number of injury crashes

SOURCES

Accommodation Survey: November 2008, Statistics New Zealand, January 2009

Annual Report 2007/08, Greater Wellington Regional Council

Greater Wellington Road Safety Report 2003-2007, Land Transport New Zealand April 2008

Quality Of Life Survey 2008, AC Nielsen

Annual Monitoring Report on the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007/2008, Greater Wellington Regional Council

VISITOR ATTRACTION

INDICATORS

GUEST NIGHTS AND OCCUPANCY RATE

The number of "guest nights" and occupancy rates in the region's accommodation give an indication of how attractive the region is to New Zealanders and to international vistors. Statistics New Zealand conducts monthly Accommodation Surveys of all establishments which provide short-term (less than one month) commercial accommodation to ascertain these rates.

WHAT WE FOUND

Total guest nights in short-term commercial accommodation in New Zealand as a whole decreased 4% in November 2008 compared with November 2007. The fall was largely due to a decrease in international guest nights. The total guest nights in the country has been decreasing since September 2007. The Wellington region had the largest increase in guest nights – up 6,000 or 2.4% in November 2008 compared to the same month in 2007.

In November 2008, the occupancy rate in New Zealand, excluding caravan parks/camping grounds, was 52 percent, compared with 56 percent in November 2007. The Wellington occupancy rate was 62%, the second highest region (Auckland, 67%) but the rate had decreased by 5.7% on the November 2007 rate.

RESIDENT SATISFACTION

INDICATORS

The following indicators are measured by data from the Quality of Life Survey 2008 – a survey of regional residents. Survey respondents were asked to respond on a five point scale ranging from "very satisfied" to "very dissatisfied" or, in relation to access to a local park or green space whether it was "very difficult" or "very easy" and for quality of life whether it was extremely poor to extremely good.

SATISFACTION WITH LEISURE TIME

- the proportion of residents who are satisfied with the quality and quantity of their leisure time.

SATISFACTION WITH WORK/LIFE BALANCE

- the proportion of employed people who are satisfied with their balance between work and other aspects of their life such as time with their family or leisure.

QUALITY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS

- the proportion of residents that say they have a good quality of life.

SATISFACTION WITH LIFE IN GENERAL

- the proportion of residents who, taking everything into account, are satisfied with their life in general these days.

EASE OF ACCESS TO LOCAL PARK OR OTHER GREEN SPACE

- the proportion of residents who consider it is easy for them to get to a local park or other green space.

USER SATISFACTION WITH REGIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND RECREATION AREAS

Greater Wellington collects feedback from users of its regional parks, forests and recreation areas.

WHAT WE FOUND

SATISFACTION WITH LEISURE TIME

75% of residents said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with both the quality and quantity of their leisure time but 9% reported that they were very dissatisfied or dissatisfied. Those aged 65 years and over reported the highest satisfaction (90%), and those in the 25-49 year age bracket reported the lowest satisfaction (70%).

SATISFACTION WITH WORK/LIFE BALANCE

75% of residents who were employed said that they were satisfied with the balance between work and other aspects of their life such as family or leisure, but 13% reported dissatisfaction. The proportion of Pacific Islanders expressing satisfaction (85%) was significantly higher than for the whole region.

QUALITY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS

A very high proportion of the region's residents (93%) considered that their overall quality of life is "good" or "extremely good". This proportion was significantly lower for Maori (88%) and those with lower incomes (80% for those with a household income of less than $20,000) and, not surprisingly, higher for those with a household income of $100,000 plus (98%).

SATISFACTION WITH LIFE IN GENERAL

88% of residents said they were "happy" or "very happy" with their life in general these days. Those in the 65+ age bracket reported a significantly higher level of satisfaction (94%) and those with household incomes less than $20,000 per annum had a significantly lower satisfaction with their life (79%).

EASE OF ACCESS TO LOCAL PARK OR OTHER GREEN SPACE

92% of region's residents said that they had easy access to a local park or green space, with only 3% saying that access was difficult. However, the proportion of those in the 65+ age bracket who considered access was easy was significant lower (88%).

USER SATISFACTION WITH REGIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND RECREATION AREAS

In May 2008, 91% of visitors to regional parks, forests and recreation areas were satisfied with their most recent park experience. An indicator in the Healthy Community outcome showed that around 57% of the regional community visited at least one regional park in 2007/08.

SAFETY

INDICATORS

The following indicators are measured by data from the Quality of Life Survey 2008 – a survey of regional residents

SENSE OF SAFETY

Respondents were asked to think about issues of crime and safety and, using a four point scale ranging from unsafe, a bit unsafe, fairly safe to very safe, how safe or unsafe they would feel in the following situations:

- in own home during the day
- in own home after dark
- walking alone in neighbourhood after dark
- in city centre during the day
- in city centre after dark

PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY OF UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN IN LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

Respondents were asked, on a scale of one to four, where one is very unsafe and four is very safe, how safe or unsafe they think their local neighbourhood is for children aged under 14 year to play in while unsupervised.

PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE PROBLEMS

Respondents were asked to respond "yes or no" to whether the following had been a problem in their local area over the last 12 months

- rubbish, graffiti, air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution
- vandalism, car theft, dangerous driving and people who they felt unsafe around because of their behaviour, attitude or appearance.

LEVEL OF CRIME AND RATES OF VIOLENT CRIME

All reports of incidents, whether from victims, witnesses, third parties or discovered by police, and whether crime-related or not, result in the registration of an incident report by police. While not all incidents are reported, the police records of incidents provide the best data about crime rates.

NUMBER OF INJURY CRASHES

The New Zealand Transport Agency (formerly LandTransport New Zealand) maintains a database of all crashes involving injury and non-injury crashes for which police reports have been completed. The data distinguishes between rural roads and urban roads and between local roads and state highways. It also distinguishes between injury crashes, dividing them into fatal, serious (requiring medical attention), and minor crashes. Data is prepared for each local authority and regionally.

WHAT WE FOUND

SENSE OF SAFETY

Nearly everyone felt safe in their own home (98%) during the day and after dark (96%). However, only 69% reported feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods after dark. Similarly, 97% of residents felt safe in their city centre during the day, but that feeling of safety evaporated after nightfall as only 61% said that they felt safe in their city centre after dark. Older people (52% of those aged over 65 years) and those with lower incomes (47% of those with household incomes less than $20,000 per annum) were the least likely to feel safe walking in their neighbourhoods after dark with Wellington city residents having the highest feeling of safety (78%).

PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY OF UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN IN LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

75% of residents felt that unsupervised children under the age of 14 were safe to play in their local neighboods, but a fifth or 21% considered that their neighbourhoods were unsafe for the children.

PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE PROBLEMS

A relatively high proportion of respondents said that they had experienced problems with rubbish (45%), graffiti (63%), air pollution (12%), water pollution (35%) and noise pollution (30%), vandalism (55%), car theft (52%), dangerous driving (63%) and people who they felt unsafe around (42%)

CRIME RATES

Wellington Police District reports provided the following information about crime rates in the region in the year to June 2008:

- There were 44,441 offences recorded during the period, 658 less than the previous year- 12% drop
  - Wellington City dropped 5.3 percent - or 971 offences from 18,176 to 17,205 offences
  - Kapiti Mana dropped 1.9 percent - or 168 offences from 8817 to 8,649 offences
  - Wairarapa recorded a stable picture with a marginal 1 percent rise in crime - up 39 offences from 4081 to 4120 offence
  - Upper Hutt went up 4.7 percent or 175 offences from 3705 to 3,880 offences
  - Lower Hutt went up 2.6 percent or 267 offences from 10,320 to 10,587 offences.
  - dishonesty offending - traditionally the largest crime category - dropped 7.6 percent or 1838 offences from 24,326 to 22,488
  - there was a 6% drop in theft
  - there was a significant 25% decrease in car conversion and related offending
  - there was more property damage related offending reported (up by 12% from 5450 to 6100 offences)
  - there were increases in drugs and anti-social offending (up 8 % from 5243 to 5677 offences)
  - disorder offences, frequently fuelled by alcohol, rose 7.8% from 2,624 in 2006/07 to 2,829 in 2007/08.
  - there was more violent crime (up 3 percent from 6546 to 6736 offences), driven by an increase in reporting of family related assaults
- Wellington District Police resolved 45% of recorded offences, up from 43% on the previous year.

ROAD SAFETY

Land Transport New Zealand's (now the New Zealand Transport Agency) regional summary of road safety issues in the Wellington region 2008, indicated that:

- there were 196 fatal and serious road crashes in the region during 2006
- the number of casualties in 2006 was the highest for the previous 5 years
- about 8% of all fatal and serious vehicle crashes in New Zealand occurred in the Wellington region in 2006
- the share of crashes involving cyclists and pedestrians (44%) was significantly higher than the national average of 26% in 2006
- the main road safety issue in the region was vulnerable road users followed by rear end/obstruction, loss of control at bends and failing to give way/stop in 2006
- 30% of at fault drivers in 2006 injury crashes were never licensed or held learner or restricted driver licenses
- the social costs of crashes in the region was $258 million in 2005.

Summaries for areas within the region indicated that:

In the Kapiti Coast District: the total number of crashes showed an upward trend from 2003-2006, but dropped in 2007 primarily due to a reduction in minor injury crashes.

In the South Wairarapa area: the total number of serious injury and fatal crashes has fluctuated during the last 10 years. Fatal crashes showed an increasing trend and serious injury crashes a decreasing trend in the last four years.

In the Masterton district: the number of serious injury and fatal crashes has fluctuated during the last ten years. Fatal crashes show a declining trend over the last five years. However total injury crashes have been gradually increasing since 2005

In the Carterton district: the total number of serious and fatal crashes fluctuated during the last 10 years. The number of serious injury crashes in 2007 was the highest in the last 10 years.

In the Upper Hutt area: the total number of serious and fatal crashes showed an upward trend over the last 5 year period, though there were no fatal crashes in 2007.

In the Hutt City: the total number of serious and fatal crashes has increased in recent years though the number of fatal crashes has been decreasing and in 2007 was the lowest it has been for the last 10 years.

In the Porirua area: Serious and fatal injury crashes fluctuated over the last 10 years. However, the total number of crashes has been declining since 2004.

In the Wellington area: Serious and fatal injury crashes have been continouskly rising in number since 2004. The total number in 2007 was the highest of any single year in the last 10 years.

What does all this tell us?

Tourism growth for New Zealand has been mediocre since the middle of 2005 averaging 1.5% per annum and, in the year to November 2008, visitor numbers declined 0.6%. Forecasters see the potential for a decline of 15% in 2009 as people offshore suffer major losses relating to falling house prices and equities and higher unemployment (BNZ Weekly Overview, 22 January 2009). It is unlikely that Wellington will escape this decline in tourism, but its challenge is to be a preferred destination for overseas visitors when the global economic situation improves and a preferred destination for New Zealand visitors during this time of economic slowdown.

Generally, the region's residents are happy and consider that, overall, they have a good quality of life and, to a lesser extent, are satisfied with the quality and quantity of their leisure time. This satisfaction is lower for those with low household incomes and it is these people who are likely to suffer more in the current economic conditions. Safety after dark is an issue, especially for older people and those with lower incomes. However, one of the pluses of living in the Wellington region is the easy access to a local park or green space.

The increasing number of serious and fatal road crashes is a matter for concern, as is the high proportion of crashes involving cyclists and pedestrians. Similarly, the incidence of alcohol fuelled disorderly events and violent crime continues to increase, probably affecting perceptions of safety after dark.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington has a role with respect to transport safety and the provision of regional parks, and is the "keeper" of the Wellington Regional Strategy, a regional economic growth strategy. Its *Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009-19* provides for Greater Wellington to do the following:

- continue to monitor the Regional Land Transport Strategy developed in conjunction with city and district councils in the region and other relevant agencies. The Regional Land Transport Strategy contributes to achieving and affordable, integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable land transport system. It must take into account economic development, safety and personal security, access and mobility, the protection and promotion of public health and environmental sustainability. The Strategy has a number of implementation plans, including the Regional Road Safety Plan, Regional Cycling Plan and Regional Pedestrian Plan
- continue to manage five regional parks and two forest areas as recreational areas
- develop a new parks network strategy to ensure that the establishment, use and management of parks and forest areas reflect changing needs
- provide a ranger service in its regional parks and forest recreational areas that contributes to the safety of these areas
- continue to monitor the satisfaction of users of forests and parks
- through the Wellington Regional Strategy, enhance "regional form" by addressing such issues as transport, housing, urban design and open spaces.
- continue to implement its action plan for urban design under the Urban Design Protocol, to which Greater Wellington is a signatory. This Protocol is part of the Government's Sustainable Development Programme of Action. This programme is a key deliverable of the 'Sustainable Cities' action area, which seeks to make our cities healthy, safe and attractive places where business, social and cultural life can flourish.

SENSE OF PLACE

SENSE OF PLACE

We have a deep sense of pride in the Wellington region. We value its unique characteristics – its rural, urban and harbour landscapes, its climate, its central location, and its capital city.

Why is a Sense of Place important?

Ideally, people should feel a sense of pride and enjoyment about the area in which they live. Pride in your local area relates to the liveability of the area, amenities and natural environment. Sense of place is closely related to quality of life and health. Generally, people who feel some pride in their area will have a sense of belonging and enjoy living where they do. They will probably contribute positively in some way and perhaps be good regional advocates.

What and who influences the Sense of Place outcome?

The feeling of a sense of place and pride in the region is rather personal and can be influenced by a number of factors ranging from quality of the natural and built environment, the availability and access to services and amenities and financial and economic well-being to such things as the success of local sports teams or local individuals. Consequently, this outcome is influenced by many organisations - central and local government, businesses, and community groups etc.

What we focused on

We have focused on sense of pride as the sole indicator for this outcome. The degree of pride that residents feel about their region or area shows satisfaction with the range of factors that contribute to that intangible feeling of "sense of place". Data for this indicator is drawn from the Quality of Life Survey 2008, carried out by AC Nielsen.

INDICATOR FOR SENSE OF PLACE

- sense of pride in local area

SOURCE *Quality of Life Survey 2008,* AC Nielsen

SENSE OF PRIDE

INDICATOR

SENSE OF PRIDE IN LOCAL AREA

This measure is drawn from the Quality of Life survey in 2008. Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement "I feel a sense of pride in the way my local area looks and feels" on a five point scale from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". They were then asked to specify their main reason for saying this.

WHAT WE FOUND

69% of the respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement compared to 6% who disagreed or strongly disagreed. The remaining 25% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed.

The proportion of people living in Wellington city and those aged over 65 years who felt that sense of pride in their local area, was significantly higher than for the region as a whole (82% and 76% respectively). Conversely, for those living in Porirua city and the Kapiti Coast district, the proportion of people feeling that sense of pride was significantly lower (53% and 59% respectively), along with Maori (61%).

Residents who agreed that they had a sense of a sense of pride in their local area cited a number of reasons - "good place to live/lifestyle (15%), "nice green city/beautiful parks and gardens" (10%), "this is where I grew up/family and friends" (10%), "helpful and friendly people" (8%), "scenery" (8%) and "good facilities and services" (6%).

Residents who disagreed that they had a sense of pride gave the following reasons for their response -"needs improvement/not appealing" (15%), "drab/dowdy/needs sprucing up" (7%), "average place to live" (6%), "crime and safety issues" (5%), "lack of infrastructure and facilities" (4%), "rubbish" (4%) and "vandalism/graffiti" (4%).

To put these findings in context, the Quality of Life survey carried out in 2007 (which did not include a Wellington region component) found that 58% of the 12 cities' residents either agreed or strongly agreed that they had a sense of pride in the way that their city looks and feels. In that survey, Wellington City also scored the highest rating (82%).

What does this tell us?

The question that respondents were asked in the Quality of Life survey related to "local area" as people tend to relate, in the first instance, to their immediate environment. Therefore the findings cannot accurately be attributed to the region as a whole. Nevertheless, the survey findings show that the majority of people have a good sense of pride about the way their local area looks and feels. The lifestyle that the area provides and the "greenness" are important, but drabness, rubbish and vandalism detracted from that sense of pride.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington's *Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009-19* provides for the implementation of the Wellington Regional Strategy. This is an economic growth strategy and one of its aims is to enhance "regional form" by addressing such issues as transport, housing, urban design and open spaces.

Greater Wellington has signed up to the *New Zealand Urban Design Protocol* which is part of the Government's *Sustainable Development Programme of Action*. The Urban Design Protocol is a key deliverable of the 'Sustainable Cities' action area, which seeks to make our cities healthy, safe and attractive places where business, social and cultural life can flourish. Greater Wellington has developed an action plan for urban design.

PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

All members of our community prosper from a strong and growing economy. A thriving business sector attracts and retains a skilled and productive workforce.

Why is a Prosperous Community important?

The economic wealth and employment opportunities of the region impact strongly on the ability of individuals to sustain personal well-being and quality of life. Business growth and development contribute strongly to employment opportunities. A skilled population facilitates the development of the region's enterprises and sustains their vitality.

What and who influences the Prosperous Community outcome?

A Prosperous Community results from a productive interchange between the major business and enterprises of the region, the agencies that support them in a variety of ways, the providers of education, and the skill and qualification levels of workers.

The attractiveness of the region to business and to workers is also a key influence on creating prosperity. Regional and local councils, Wellington's economic development agency Grow Wellington, and business agencies such as the Chamber of Commerce are key agencies promoting, supporting and monitoring the region's prosperity.

What have we focused on?

We have selected three focus areas for this outcome:

- economic growth
- employment and income
- skill base

Fourteen indicators have been used to provide a picture of the region in these focus areas.

INDICATORS FOR PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

ECONOMIC GROWTH	EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME	SKILL BASE
• Regional GDP • Business growth and industry contribution to GDP • Value and number of non-residential building consents • Overseas cargo statistics – Cargo Loaded Value – Cargo Unloaded Value • Population numbers and migration levels	• Labour force participation rates • Employee count • Rates of employment and unemployment • Employment growth in specific occupations • Skill shortages • Income levels – regional median household income – regional median hourly wages – regional total personal income • Sufficiency of income to meet everyday needs • Consumer price index	• Highest qualifications of working-age population

These indicators link closely to those identified under "Entrepreneurial and Innovative Region" and should be considered in conjunction with those indicators. Additional indicators can be found in the "Wellington Regional Outlook" report prepared by Grow Wellington in June 2008.

SOURCES

Annual In-depth Regional Reports, Wellington Region 2007 & 2008, The Department of Labour

BNZ Weekly Overview, 29 January 2009

Census 2006, Statistics New Zealand

Household Labour Force Survey: September 2008 quarter, Statistics New Zealand

Wellington Regional Outlook, Grow Wellington, June 2008

Wellington Region Community Profile, Statistics New Zealand Year ended March 08

Wellington Region Quarterly Review March 2008, Statistics New Zealand[2]

Quality of Life Survey 2008, AC Nielsen

Quarterly Regional Labour Market Update for September 2008, Department of Labour and Ministry of Social Development

Quarterly Regional Report June 2008, Department of Labour and Ministry of Social Development

[2] This was the last Regional Quarterly Review produced by Statistics New Zealand. The series has been discontinued.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

INDICATORS

REGIONAL GDP

GDP is a key indicator of economic performance. Data for this report is drawn from the Wellington Regional Outlook June 2008 report of Grow Wellington which draws on the BERL Regional Database using Statistics New Zealand data.

BUSINESS GROWTH AND INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION TO GDP

The Wellington Regional Outlook reports data about the number and type of businesses and their expansion and contraction over time.

VALUE AND NUMBER OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CONSENTS

Building consents, both in the residential and non-residential sector, provide a picture of economic confidence. Non-residential consents give indications of expected expansion of business activities. Statistics New Zealand collects and analyses the data of local government which issues the consents. Grow Wellington has used this data in the Wellington Regional Outlook report.

Building consents issued for non-residential building in the region reflect the health and confidence of business in the region.

OVERSEAS CARGO STATISTICS, SEAPORTS: CARGO LOADED VALUE & CARGO UNLOADED VALUE

NZ Customs figures are used by Statistics New Zealand to provide tables, by weight and by value for all seaports and international airports. Grow Wellington uses these figures for its reporting on the activities of the airport and port in Wellington.

POPULATION AND MIGRATION

Population and migration data is collected through the six-yearly census. Growth or decline of population numbers and changes in the composition of the population can affect labour force characteristics and the potential for growth in the economy.

WHAT WE FOUND

In general, the Wellington region has been doing well economically over the last few years. Grow Wellington's analysis of data from Statistics New Zealand reveals that in 2007:

- the region's GDP grew by 3.1% in 2007, double the national average
- the GDP per capita increase for the year was 2.3%, four times the national average

Over the longer term (1997-2007) the region reflected New Zealand performance generally

- GDP grew by 2.5% per annum, slightly below the 3.0% per annum in New Zealand as a whole
- GDP per capita increased by 1.5% per annum, a similar rate to the 1.8% seen in all of New Zealand

The region performed above the national average in two other respects in 2007. The number of businesses and their average size both increased, by 2.1% and 0.3% respectively (compared with national figures of 1.9% and 0.1%.) However, regional businesses remain small on the whole. As in New Zealand generally, 85% of businesses in Wellington employed five or fewer employees in 2007.

The top five industries in terms of their contribution to regional GDP in 2007 were Government Administration, Property Services, Business Services, Communication Services and Finance. Of these, Communication Services was also the industry with the third fastest growing contribution to GDP. Sport and Recreation experienced the fastest GDP growth. Defence, and Motion Picture, Radio and Television services also experienced GDP growth above 10%

Tables 4.1 and 4.2 show respectively, a summary of the ten industries that generated the most GDP and have the fastest growing GDP within the Wellington region in 2007.

TABLE 4.1: LARGEST INDUSTRIES BY GDP, 2007

RANK BY GDP	INDUSTRY	GDP(2007$M) 2007	% OF TOTAL
1	Government Administration	2,543	11.9
2	Property Services	2,484	11.6
3	Business Services	2,298	10.8
4	Communication Services	2,052	9.6
5	Finance	1,707	8.0
6	Health Services	908	4.2
7	Education	693	3.2
8	Electricity and Gas Supply	525	2.5
9	Personal and Household Good Wholesaling	497	2.3
10	Personal and Household Good Retailing	487	2.3

DATA SOURCE BERL Regional database, Statistics NZ

TABLE SOURCE Wellington Regional Outlook, Grow Wellington, June 2008, Table 4.4

TABLE 4.2: INDUSTRIES WITH FASTEST GDP GROWTH, 2007

RANK BY GDP GROWTH	INDUSTRY	GDP(2007$M) 2006	2007	% GROWTH
1	Sport and Recreation	180	208	15.6
2	Defence	165	187	13.3
3	Communication Services	1,810	2,052	13.3
4	Motion Picture, Radio and Television Services	192	212	10.1
5	Other Services	184	202	9.6
6	Government Administration	2,407	2,543	5.7
7	Business Services	2,183	2,298	5.3
8	Electricity and Gas Supply	499	525	5.3
9	Health Services	870	908	4.4
10	Accomodation, Cafes and Restaurants	292	303	3.9

DATA SOURCE BERL Regional database, Statistics NZ

TABLE SOURCE Wellington Regional Outlook, Grow Wellington, June 2008, Table 4.5

POPULATION AND MIGRATION

The Wellington region's population increased by 1% in the period 1997-2007, from 411,257 to 452,680.

In the period June 2006-June 2007, almost all of the region's gain of 4,000 people came from natural increases. Only 220 resulted from migration. The region's share of net migration nationally was only 2.2% in the 2007 year, considerably less than its share of the population as a whole.

Inter-regional migrants (people who indicated they were living somewhere else in New Zealand in 2001 (refer Table 4.3) make up 10.1% of the total Wellington region population as compared to the national average of 11%. The majority of these people are living in Wellington City (14% of the City's population). Kapiti District and Masterton District are the next most popular. Though there has been some movement out of the region, there are more people moving into the Wellington region than moving away.

TABLE 4.3: INTER-REGIONAL MIGRATION FROM 2001 TO 2006

REGIONAL COUNCIL	TO REGIONAL COUNCIL	FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL
Northland Region	15,288	14,421
Auckland Region	51,153	63,621
Waikato Region	39,573	35,502
Bay of Plenty Region	28,866	24,309
Gisborne Region	3,867	5,298
Hawke's Bay Region	12,417	13,503
Taranaki Region	7,617	9,795
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	22,419	24,999
Wellington Region	**34,899**	**32,967**
West Coast Region	4,026	4,362
Canterbury Region	34,803	28,188
Otago Region	23,484	19,326
Southland Region	7,368	9,717
Tasman Region	7,272	5,985
Nelson Region	6,780	8,118
Marlborough Region	6,144	5,751
Area Outside Region	78	186

DATA SOURCE Census 2006, Statistics New Zealand
TABLE SOURCE Annual in- depth Regional Report, Wellington Region, Department of Labour, 2007

Overseas migrants make up a slightly smaller share (9.3%) of the Wellington region population compared to 9.9% nationally. As with inter-regional migrants, the majority of those moving to the region from overseas live in Wellington City (14.0% of the City's population), whilst all other areas are attracting some overseas migrants (in order of highest intakes - Lower Hutt, Porirua City, Kapiti Coast District, Upper Hutt City and Wairarapa). The proportion of youth moving to the Wellington region is higher than other age groups, with 20.5% of the Wellington region youth population having moved to the region since 2001. In line with trends in other age groups, a high concentration of youth moving to the region live in Wellington City, compared to other areas in the region (35.0% of 20-24 year olds living in Wellington City lived somewhere else in 2001). This is likely to be the result of Wellington being the home of Victoria and Massey universities.

GDP, POPULATION, AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE POPULATION

At the end of 2007, Wellington's population was 11.1% of the total New Zealand population. Wellington's population has been growing at a slightly slower rate than the rate for New Zealand as a whole, with the result that the region's proportion of the total population has fallen by 0.3% over the last ten years. This has contributed to the slightly lower than average GDP growth over the long term. However, absolute population growth of 0.8% has contributed to the GDP per capita increase in the region.

Seven industry groups each employ 4% or more of the work force in the region and between them they employ over 50% of the work force. Business Services are the biggest employers followed by Government Administration, Education and Health Services. All these industries also appear in the list of industry groups who experienced the fastest employment growth, either in the last 10 years, or in 2007 or both.

Sport and Recreation had the fastest employment growth in 2007 and the second fastest over the 10 years up to 2007. Electricity and Gas Supply ranked

second for fastest employment growth in 2007. Education and Business services had the largest actual increases of employment, adding 1,297 and 2,072 (full time equivalent) staff respectively.

Table 4.4 below summarises percentage growth for population, GDP, employment, productivity and business for the 2007 year. In almost all these areas (except population growth) Wellington region ranks above or equals the national growth rates.

TABLE 4.4: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATIONS FOR WELLINGTON REGION

	% PA FOR 2007 YEAR	
	WELLINGTON REGION	NEW ZEALAND
Resident Population Growth	0.8	1.0
Real Value Added (GDP) Growth	3.1	1.6
GDP Per Capita Growth	2.3	0.5
Employment Growth	2.4	2.0
Employee Count Growth	2.3	2.3
Productivity Growth	0.7	-0.4
Business Units Growth	2.1	1.9
Business Size Growth	0.3	0.1

DATA SOURCE BERL Regional Database, Statistics NZ
TABLE SOURCE Wellington Regional Outlook, Grow Wellington, June 2008, Table 2.1

BUILDING ACTIVITY IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR

In the year to March 2008, according to the Department of Statistics Regional Report, there were 1,499 building consents issued for the construction and alteration of non-residential buildings, a fall of 2.9% from the year ended March 2007 (see Table 4.5 below). Nationally there was a decrease of 1.7 percent during the same period. On the other hand, the total value of non residential consents for the region, year ending March 2008, was $512.9 million. This is a 40.9% (+$148.8 million) rise from the previous year. This was well in excess of the national increase of 7.4%.

TABLE 4.5: VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CONSENTS

AREA	VALUE $(MILLION) 2007	2008	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
Wellington Region	364.1	512.9	40.9
Kapiti Coast District	13.9	24.7	78.0
Porirua City	19.2	33.5	74.2
Upper Hutt City	34.8	44.2	27.1
Lower Hutt City	47.0	61.6	31.1
Wellington City	225.1	328.8	46.0
Masterton District	13.7	10.4	-24.2
Carterton District	4.1	3.5	-13.3
South Wairarapa District	6.2	6.2	-1.0
New Zealand	3,971.7	4,264.2	7.4

NOTE Building consents below $5,000 are excluded
DATA SOURCE Statistics New Zealand
TABLE SOURCE Wellington Region Community Profile, Statistics NZ, Year ended March 08

In the half year since the March quarter report, there have been 806 further consents at a value of $191.3 million, compared with 787 at a value of $210.8 million in the same period in the previous year.

OVERSEAS CARGO FIGURES

Import results show a steady increase of imports through CentrePort Ltd. Statistics New Zealand reports that, for the year ended March 2008, 1,246,349 tonnes of overseas cargo were unloaded at Wellington Seaport and Airport, a 15.3% increase from the previous year. Nationally, there was an increase over the same period of 4.1%. The value of the cargo unloaded in Wellington was estimated at $2,399.1 million, a 9.6% increase in value compared with the previous year. Grow Wellington reported that over the two years to February 2008, the value of imports increased at an average rate of 7.6% per year.

Export results have been mixed. Cargo loaded in Wellington for overseas destinations in the year to March 2008 reached a total tonnage of 787,609. This was a 0.5% increase from the previous year, compared with a national increase of 5.4% during the same period. The value of the cargo was estimated at $841.3 million, a 12.1% decrease in value compared with the previous year. The Wellington Regional Outlook reported that in the two years to February 2008, exports in dollar terms increased by 0.7% per year, compared with a 12.4% per annum rise in export values nationally.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

INDICATORS

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES

Labour force participation rates reflect the level at which the regional economy is utilising the human resources available to it and the extent to which residents have accessed the employment opportunities available. The rates are provided through the Household Labour Force Surveys conducted by Statistics New Zealand.

EMPLOYEE COUNT

Statistics New Zealand provides an "Employee Count" which is a head count of all salary and wage earners for the reference period. The employee count is mainly sourced from the Inland Revenue Department's Employer Monthly Schedule.

RATES OF EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Statistics New Zealand conducts a quarterly Household Labour Force Survey which collects information relating to the employed, the unemployed and those not in the workforce who comprise New Zealand's working age population. Details available include age, sex, ethnicity, occupation, employment status, educational qualification and hours worked.

Employment and unemployment rates provide evidence of economic activity and provide some evidence about the availablity of workforce resources to create prosperity.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN SPECIFIC OCCUPATIONS

Census data includes the occupations of the working age population. Comparison of the 2001 and 2006 Census data for the Wellington region provides a picture of changes in the regional workforce.

SKILL SHORTAGES

There is no single measure of skills availability, although there are a range of measures that indicate areas of skill shortages (or otherwise) in a region. This report relies on an analysis of available data by the Department of Labour contained in their Annual In-depth Report for the Wellington region.

INCOME LEVELS

We have used three indicators for income levels: real median hourly earnings; median household incomes; and total personal incomes. The Department of Labour uses the New Zealand Income Survey and the Consumers Price Index data compiled by Statistics New Zealand to produce data relating to these three indicators.

SUFFICIENCY OF INCOME TO MEET EVERYDAY NEEDS

The Quality of Life survey 2008 of residents in the region asked respondents about the sufficiency of their total incomes to cover everyday needs for things as accommodation, food, clothing and other necessities. People were asked to respond whether they had enough or not enough money, using a four point scale.

CONSUMERS PRICE INDEX

The Consumers Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the price change of goods and services purchased by private New Zealand households. Often used as a measure of inflation, it covers prices for: food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, clothing and footwear, housing and household utilities, household contents and services, health, transport, communication, recreation and culture, education and miscellaneous goods and services.

The CPI is produced quarterly by Statistics New Zealand from prices gathered in a range of surveys at 15 urban areas.

WHAT WE FOUND

According to the Department of Labour's Annual In-depth Regional Report for the Wellington Region of July 2007, labour force participation rates in the Wellington region have tracked consistently above the national average for the 10 years up to the 2006 census and reached an historic high of 71% at the time of the census. Wellington city had one of the highest labour force participation rates in New Zealand in 2006, at 75%, compared with a national rate of 68.5%. Porirua and Lower Hutt cities also had nationally high rates, both being at 70.6%.

Over the years 2001-06, the labour force grew in all territorial authority areas of Wellington region, most notably in Kapiti Coast district. The growth in the labour force was mostly driven by rises in the working-age population, coupled with a rise in participation rates. Looking forward, the labour force is likely to continue growing in most areas of the region, especially in Kapiti Coast district and Wellington city, though participation rates may not grow beyond the already high rate.

Employment growth (Full Time Equivalent workers) in the region was slower than the national average between 1997 and 2007[3]. However, for the period 2004-07, total numbers in employment in the region increased by 10.4%% compared with a national increase of 7.7%. (see Table 4.6 for Employee Count figures.)

TABLE 4.6: EMPLOYEE COUNTS

YEAR	WELLINGTON REGION EMPLOYEE COUNT	TOTAL NEW ZEALAND EMPLOYEE COUNT
2004	214410	1785380
2005	224160	1844700
2006	231540	1880810
2007	236780	1923190

DATA SOURCE Statistics New Zealand

Over the longer-term (1997-2007), employment was up by 1.9% per year[4], compared to the New Zealand figure of 2.4%.

The Household Labour Force Survey indicates that during 2007, there was a drop in the unemployment rate (4.7% to 2.5%) from the previous year. In line with the rest of New Zealand, however, the unemployment rate rose at the beginning of 2008 and then fell back (5% in the first quarter and then 3.3%), continuing the fluctuations that have occurred across New Zealand over the two year period 2006-08. (2007: 3.5% to 3.2%; 2008: 1st and 2nd quarter only: 4.1% to 3.8%).

The Department of Labour has reported that "A large part of the employment growth in the Wellington Region has been in highly skilled and skilled occupation groups such as Legislators, Administrators and Managers, Professionals and Technicians and Associate Professionals. This was partly driven by the growth in industries such as Government Administration and Defence, and Property and Business Services, where many skilled and highly skilled people are employed. Employment growth was also driven by an increase in the prevalence of these highly skilled and skilled professions in a number of industries."[5] The changes in the composition of the Wellington region labour force in these occupations is illustrated in Table 4.7 below, together with the region's contribution to New Zealand as a whole.

[3] Wellington Regional Outlook, June 2008, page 5.
[4] This statistic is drawn from Wellington Regional Outlook, June 2008 section 2, page 4.
[5] Annual in-depth Regional Report, Wellington Region, Department of Labour, 2007, Executive Summary, page 4.

TABLE 4.7: EMPLOYMENT BY HIGHLY SKILLED AND SKILLED OCCUPATIONS

OCCUPATION	WELLINGTON REGION 2001	WELLINGTON REGION 2006	WELLINGTON REGION % CHANGE BETWEEN 2001 AND 2006	ALL REGIONS IN NEW ZEALAND 2006	% IN WELLINGTON COMPARED TO NEW ZEALAND AS WHOLE 2006
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	29313	36930	26%	283260	13%
Professionals	39930	47718	19.5%	292098	16.3%
Technicians and Associate Professionals	27630	32112	16.2%	240081	13.4%

SOURCE Statistics NZ

The Department of Labour reported in 2007 that, based on information about employment growth and evidence of skill shortages from the Survey of Employers who have Recently Advertised (SERA), acute skill shortages that were being experienced nationally in 2006 included Professionals, Technicians and Associate Professionals, as well as Trades Workers, and Plant and Machine operators and assemblers.

In the Wellington region, they estimated that acute skill shortages most likely to exist were in the higher skill occupations (Professionals and Technicians and Associate Professionals) rather than in the latter group. It seemed likely, too, that the moderate national shortage of Legislators, Administrators and Managers was also a feature of the Wellington region labour market.

INDIVIDUAL INCOMES

Data from the period 1997-2006 shows that Wellington was consistently above the national median hourly earning rate (refer Table 4.8).

TABLE 4.8: REAL MEDIAN HOURLY EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE RESIDENT IN THE WELLINGTON REGION COMPARED WITH THE NATIONAL AVERAGE – 1997 TO 2006

YEAR	WELLINGTON REGION MEDIAN HOURLY RATE ($)	NEW ZEALAND MEDIAN HOURLY RATE ($)
1997	16.61	14.09
1998	17.46	15.62
1999	18.44	16.13
2000	17.68	15.91
2001	17.84	15.98
2002	18.11	16.11
2003	17.79	16.40
2004	18.15	16.40
2005	16.90	16.68
2006	18.75	17.00

DATA SOURCE New Zealand Income Survey, Consumer Price Index (CPI), Statistics New Zealand

TABLE SOURCE Annual in-depth regional report, Wellington Region, Department of Labour, 2007

In real terms from 1997 to 2006, however, growth in hourly earnings was slower for Wellington ($2.14) than for New Zealand as a whole ($2.91).

Table 4.9 shows the annual incomes of people in employment in the Wellington region, compared with the national average for 2006. It shows that, compared to New Zealand as a whole, there were more working people with incomes higher than $40,000 and relatively fewer working people with incomes between $10,000 and $40,000. These figures do not include income from other sources such as investments.

TABLE 4.9: TOTAL PERSONAL INCOMES FOR PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT AND RESIDENT IN THE WELLINGTON REGION COMPARED WITH THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IN 2006

INCOME	WELLINGTON REGION	NEW ZEALAND
Loss	0%	0%
Zero Income	0%	1%
$1 - $5,000	5%	6%
$5,001 - $10,000	5%	5%
$10,001 - $15,000	5%	6%
$15,001 - $20,000	6%	7%
$20,001 - $25,000	7%	8%
$25,001 - $30,000	8%	9%
$30,001 - $35,000	8%	9%
$35,001 - $40,000	9%	9%
$40,001 - $50,000	13%	12%
$50,001 - $70,000	15%	13%
$70,001 - $100,000	9%	6%
$100,001 or More	8%	5%

SOURCE Census 2006, Statistics New Zealand.

TABLE SOURCE Annual in-depth regional report, Wellington Region, Department of Labour, 2007

TABLE 4.10: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	WELLINGTON REGION			ALL REGIONS IN NEW ZEALAND		
YEAR	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME ($)	MEDIAN WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME ($)	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS (000)	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME ($)	MEDIAN WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME ($)	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS (000)
1998	1084	926	159.7	920	767	1225.7
1999	1122	974	156	956	800	1238.4
2000	1127	959	152.1	959	800	1249.5
2001	1189	1030	154.5	1025	863	1258.3
2002	1276	1072	154.5	1115	923	1271.5
2003	1309	1055	165.8	1170	951	1304.2
2004	1252	1099	164.9	1203	992	1327.1
2005	1314	1113	173.4	1260	1040	1339
2006	1458	1254	171	1321	1129	1360.4
2007	1687	1351	172.3	1445	1203	1372.7

SOURCE Statistics New Zealand

Table 4.10 above indicates that throughout New Zealand, the median weekly household income has risen annually over the period 1999 to 2007. The table also indicates that the median income in the Wellington region increased more than it did for New Zealand as a whole. Between 1998 and 2007, the median weekly household income in the region rose by 68.5% (compared to a rise of 63.8% across the nation). The 2007 median weekly household income in the region was 12.3% higher than the national average ($1,351 and $1,203 respectively.)

The higher levels of income reflect the higher than average share of highly-skilled occupations within the regional labour force. Within the Wellington region, the 2006 Census showed that 40% of people in employment were within the occupations of Legislators, Administrators and Managers or Professionals, compared to a national rate of 29%. Between 2001 and 2006, both the professional group, and the technician and associate professional group increased in size while those whose employment was categorised as clerical decreased in number.

SUFFICIENCY OF INCOME TO MEET EVERYDAY NEEDS

12% of the region's residents said that they did not have enough money to meet everyday needs, such as accommodation, food, clothing and othe necessities. As would be expected, those with a household income less than $20,000 pa and between $20-40,000 pa were particularly in this situation (31% and 21% respectively). The proportion of Maori and Pacific Islanders finding themselves in this situation (17% and 18% respectively) was also significantly higher than the region as a whole.

CONSUMERS PRICE INDEX

The Consumers Price Index (CPI) recorded an increase of 0.7% for New Zealand in the March 2008 quarter, consisting of a 0.7% increase for the North Island and a 0.8% increase for the South Island. The September 2008 quarter saw a 1.5% increase nationally.

The annual CPI movements include 1.8 percent for the year to September 2007, 3.2% for the year to December 2007, 3.4% for the year to March 2008 and 5.1% for the year to September 2008. This latter figure was the highest annual increase since the year to the June 1990 quarter.

The Wellington region CPI percentage change between the March 2008 quarter and the previous quarter was less than that of New Zealand as a whole and less than both the Auckland and Canterbury regions.

SKILL BASE

INDICATOR

HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS OF WORKING-AGE POPULATION

Census 2006 collects data about the highest qualifications of the working-age population (15 years and above).

WHAT WE FOUND

Table 4.11 summarises the qualifications of the working-age population resident in the Wellington region as compared to New Zealand as whole. The working-age population of Wellington as a proportion of the working-age population in New Zealand as a whole is 11.5%. The table indicates that on average, the qualification level of the working-age population in Wellington was higher than that of New Zealand as a whole. A greater proportion of the working-age population in Wellington region have a Bachelor degree or higher, and a smaller proportion of people have no qualifications. The qualification level in Wellington as a whole also rose between 2001 and 2006. The number of the working-age population with no qualification or low qualifications dropped further, but the number of people with Bachelor degrees or higher grew more slowly than the national average.

According to the Department of Labour's annual in-depth report for the Wellington region, qualification levels of working-age people in all of Wellington's territorial authorities have further improved recently. There has been strong growth in the number of people with vocational qualifications and Bachelor degrees or higher. In all areas, the proportion of people with no qualifications has contracted in relation to the change in working-age population.

TABLE 4.11: HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS OF WORKING-AGE POPULATION IN 2006

HIGHEST QUALIFICATION	NUMBER IN WELLINGTON REGION	NUMBER IN NZ	RESIDENT IN WELLINGTON AS PERCENTAGE OF NATIONAL NUMBER
No Qualification	64611	708429	9.12
Level 1 Certificate Gained at School	38166	386070	9.89
Level 2 Certificate Gained at School	31344	263850	11.9
Level 3 or 4 Certificate Gained at School	23457	170055	13.8
Overseas Secondary School Qualification	17973	172590	10.4
Level 1, 2 or 3 Certificate Gained Post-School	14928	128619	11.6
Level 4 Certificate Gained Post-School	29679	286599	10.4
Level 5 Diploma	13026	110496	11.8
Level 6 Diploma	18240	157866	11.6
Bachelor Degree and Level 7 Qualifications	50364	315849	16.0
Post-Graduate and Honours Degree	10536	55458	19.0
Masters Degree	11265	59703	18.9
Doctorate Degree	3102	16767	18.5
Not Elsewhere Included	29820	328014	9.1

SOURCE Statistics New Zealand, 2006 Census

What does all this tell us?

Wellington region's economic performance has, over the ten year period 1997-2007, been close to, but slightly less than the national average performance. In 2007, however, the region performed better than the national average on a number of key indicators. Regional employment counts rose at a greater rate than the regional population growth, and the region continued to have a very high labour force participation rate. The labour force in the region is on average, better qualified than in other parts of New Zealand and both individuals and households have, on average, better incomes than those in other New Zealand regions. However, 11% of the region's residents have said that they do not have enough money to meet their everyday needs. Given the current economic downturn, it is likely that this figure will increase.

The economic situation is fast changing and data for 2008 and 2009 is likely to be very different from that reported here. We are facing the worst global economic crisis since the 1930s Great Depression. Last year household budgets were hit by soaring petrol and then food prices. There was an electricity shortage last winter and businesses had their growth constrained by a shortage of labour and faced increased raw material prices. In 2009, the economy is expected to shrink by 0.9% and GDP is expected to fall over the first half of the year. A rebound is expected over 2010 although less than originally forecasted because of the extra deterioration in the expectations of trading partner growth (BNZ Weekly Overview, 29 January 2009). The Wellington region will not be able to escape the impact of global and national economic conditions.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington recognises that despite very good recent performance on some indicators, and despite having a highly qualified population to draw on, the region must, like all others, continue to be active in building a region which offers a competitive package of a great lifestyle and job opportunities, supported by a strong economy. This is all the more important in current economic conditions.

Greater Wellington, in its *Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009-19,* has provided for the following:

- Together with the region's eight city and district councils, central government, the private and voluntary sectors, Greater Wellington will participate in the continuing implementation and development of the sustainable growth strategy (Wellington Regional Strategy) which has set out the regional interventions and actions that can realistically make a difference to the regional economy.
- Greater Wellington will continue to facilitate and support the Wellington Regional Strategy committee and will lead key projects, such as the Genuine Progress Index project, and contribute to other key projects, such as the Wellington Regional Broadband Plan.
- Greater Wellington will also continue to support and fund Grow Wellington, the region's economic development agency.

PREPARED COMMUNITY

PREPARED COMMUNITY

We can cope with emergency events. Individuals and businesses are able to take responsibility for their own well-being. Effective emergency management systems are in place.

Why is a Prepared Community important?

The Wellington Region is exposed to a wide range of natural and man-made hazards (earthquake, flooding, landslide, tsunami, storm, biological, chemical, terrorism, etc.) that could either impact on a particular area or the whole region. Three major fault lines cross the region and there is a high probability that the region will suffer an earthquake. Population centres could be separated by vulnerable roading, resulting in cities and districts being isolated after a major storm, flood or earthquake. In the event of a major incident, it is possible that individuals and families will need to be self-sufficient for up to 14 days.

Better understanding of our hazards and their consequences, coupled with effective planning by individuals, families, and organisations, will help to reduce the impact of hazards on our communities. We can be better prepared to deal with, respond to, and recover from disasters.

What and who influences the Prepared Community outcome?

Civil defence emergency management in New Zealand and the Wellington region is principally governed by the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Act 2002. All regional and local government bodies together with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management are integral to the implementation of emergency management. However, many other agencies are involved in planning to manage emergencies and would be strongly involved if an emergency event occurred.

It is important, too, that individuals, businesses and neighbourhood communities take responsibility for themselves by careful planning and ensuring that they have adequate emergency supplies on hand.

What have we focused on?

Ten indicators are used across four focus areas - *Reduction* of risk, *Readiness*, *Response* to an event and *Recovery* from an event (the key elements of emergency management) to show progress towards this outcome. Taken together the indicators provide an overall picture of the region's capacity for dealing with community - wide emergencies.

INDICATORS FOR PREPARED COMMUNITY

REDUCTION	READINESS	RESPONSE	RECOVERY
• Hazard research • Building safety • Harbour Safety – risk assessment and planning • Flood protection - risk assessment and planning - assessed value of flood damage • Water supply - planning for improved speed and ease of reinstating water supply following natural disasters	• Level of household preparedness to respond to and recover from an emergency event • Level of business preparedness to respond to and recover from an emergency event • Availability of plans to guide the response of key organisations in the event of an emergency	• Capacity of emergency operations centres	• Availability of plans to expedite recovery following a natural disaster

SOURCES Annual reports of Greater Wellington Regional Council and other local authorities in the region

REDUCTION

INDICATORS

HAZARD RESEARCH

Better understanding of the risks facing the region will enable measures to be put in place to reduce those risks.

BUILDING SAFETY

It is important that buildings in the earthquake prone Wellington region can withstand an earthquake. The indicator used for building safety is the existence and implementation of plans that identify buildings that would be damaged and unsafe in an earthquake and the actions that need to be taken to reduce the risk of substantial damage.

HARBOUR SAFETY – RISK ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

Greater Wellington is responsible under the Maritime Transport Act 1994 for ensuring the safety of the region's harbours and coastal waters for commercial and recreational users.

Risk assessments and subsequent planning to deal with identified risk provide the community with some assurance that there is an active approach to harbour safety.

FLOOD PROTECTION

- risk assessment and planning
- assessed value of flood damage

Flood risk assessments and resulting floodplain management planning documents provide the community with some assurance that there is an active approach to reducing flood risk in the region.

The "assessed value of flood damage" measure estimates the average annual cost of flood damage for a given level of flood protection infrastructure. The better the flood protection infrastructure, the lower the assessed value of flood damage will be.

WATER SUPPLY

Risk assessments and resulting planning documents reassure communities that there is an active approach to reducing the risk of lengthy interruptions to potable water supply in the event of an emergency.

WHAT WE FOUND

HAZARD RESEARCH

The range of potential hazards and associated risks is wide and varied. There is ongoing work across the region to research and collate data relevant to potential incidents, evaluating potential impacts and consequences. This work builds on existing databases and updates historical data. The "It's Our Fault" project was established in 2006 by Geological Nuclear Sciences (GNS Science) and is currently funded by the Wellington City Accident Compensation Corporation, Earthquake Commission and GNS. Greater Wellington has provided for funding for this project in its draft 10 Year Plan 2009-19 and other members of the Wellington CDEM Group have also agreed to contribute. The work will develop more accurate predictions for future earthquakes in the region.

BUILDING SAFETY

The Building Act 2004 introduced provisions to improve the likelihood of existing buildings withstanding earthquakes. This is a long-term strategy that focuses on the buildings most vulnerable in an earthquake. It does not include small residential buildings. Territorial authorities are required to take into account their area's particular seismic, economic and social conditions and develop a policy on earthquake-prone buildings.

All city and district councils in the region have responded by developing policies. For example, in Wellington City, 700 buildings have been identified that do not meet the standards outlined in the Act, and 3,800 buildings have been identified for investigation. Territorial authorities have commenced contacting property owners, outlining mitigation

requirements and timeframes. The structural work required in some instances is substantial and costly. This work is ongoing.

HARBOUR SAFETY

Greater Wellington and CentrePort Ltd completed a risk assessment of Wellington Harbour in 2006 which identified areas of action to reduce risks. A resulting Harbour Management Safety Management System is being finalised. A key recommendation of the risk assessment was the upgrade of the Beacon Hill Communications Station which is currently underway. The Navigation and Safety Bylaws for the Wellington Region were reviewed in 2008. Over the years navigation aids have been converted to solar power for ease of maintenance and reliability and summer safety education programmes have been conducted. Greater Wellington provides a harbour ranger service to deal with unsafe behaviour.

FLOOD PROTECTION

Greater Wellington undertakes floodplain management planning to assess flood risks and to determine the appropriate measures to reduce those risks – now and in the future. Risk reduction measures include controls in district plans on land use and development and, where appropriate, physical works to prevent flooding. In addition, Greater Wellington raises community awareness of flood risk and educates about appropriate responses to flood events.

Currently, Greater Wellington is engaged with eight communities in the region to develop and implement long-term plans for flood protection.

Over the eight years, 2000-2008, about $25 million dollars has been invested in flood protection infrastructure in the region - largely on the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae rivers. So far, approximately 60% of the targeted flood damages have been saved on the Otaki and Waikanae floodplains and there has been a significant reduction in the flood risk to the Belmont, Alicetown and Moera areas in Hutt City.

Flood protection planning and capital works are costly and the financial burden falls on the general ratepayer and affected communities. The rate at which improvements can be undertaken is, to a great extent, governed by affordability.

WATER SUPPLY

With several water treatment plants and over 180 kilometres of pipelines, the water supply system in the metropolitan part of the region is vulnerable to a range of incidents including a major community-wide emergency event. A major earthquake, particularly one involving a movement on the Wellington fault, would lead to considerable disruption to the water supply system.

For some years, Greater Wellington has undertaken mitigation work in the metropolitan part of the region to prepare for such an event. For example in 2007/8, emergency connection points were installed near the Cruickshank reservoir in Upper Hutt, and off the Wainuiomata-Thorndon main near Wainuiomata shopping centre. These connections allow supply directly into city reticulation systems in the event that service reservoirs or their inlet pipes have been damaged. Greater Wellington also installed an automated shut-off valve on the Kaitoke-Karori water main at the northern end of the Silverstream Bridge. The Wellington fault is located near the southern end of the bridge. The valve will close off automatically should a fault movement at Silverstream rupture the main.

In the Wairarapa, Carterton District Council has constructed a new reservoir at its water treatment plant to give it more ability to supply water if there are short-term faults at the plant. Masterton District Council has installed three emergence water supply bores at Te Ore Ore with a short term capacity to supply 10% of the average urban water demand. As, the Greytown and Featherston water supply treatment plant is very close to the fault line, South Wairarapa District Council carried out a risk assessment at the time of construction. However, the assessed risk was very low and no earthquake/emergency proofing was deemed necessary.

On the other side of the region, Kapiti Coast District Council has carried out studies on earthquake risk at the Waikanae water treatment plant and on the supply network and, as a result, it carried out some major works at the treatment plant and is installing auto shut valves at all the major supply reservoirs. This has already been done for four reservoirs. Kapiti Coast District Council also installed emergency bores.

READINESS

INDICATORS

LEVEL OF HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS

The Wellington CDEM Group carried out a "Household awareness and preparedness" survey in the region annually from 2004-07 to gauge the community's level of preparedness for a major civil defence emergency event. Now that a baseline has been established, it is planned to carry out the survey every three years.

LEVEL OF BUSINESS PREPAREDNESS

A more recent initiative has been the "Business Service Continuity Planning and Business Preparedness Survey", initiated in 2008. The survey asked about the existence of business continuity plans and measures for staff preparedness. This benchmark survey covered a sample of 329 key sector businesses across the region (out of a total of 42,000 registered businesses). The key sectors organisations surveyed were:

Local authorities

District health boards (DHBs).

Lifeline organisations (e.g. utilities, water, sewage and roading)

Relevant government departments

Medical centres

Supermarkets

Large hardware stores

Service stations

Pharmacies

AVAILABILITY OF PLANS TO GUIDE THE RESPONSE OF KEY ORGANISATIONS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

The Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Act 2002 requires that CDEM Groups prepare plans for emergency response and recovery in their regions.

WHAT WE FOUND

HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS

Overall, the survey trends indicate that we are moving in the right direction as a region with an ongoing increase in awareness and preparedness. However, just over a quarter of households do not have any emergency supplies and between a quarter and a third of all households do not have an emergency plan in place (see Table 5.1).

TABLE 5.1: HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS

% HOUSEHOLDS	2004	2005	2006	2007
Emergency food supples	61	65	70	72
Emergency water supplies	68	69	71	71
Other emergency supplies and equipment	69	69	75	74
No emergency plan for the household	31	26	27	38

The information gathered from these surveys creates a better understanding of needs across the region and allows public education initiatives to be targeted in the right direction.

BUSINESS PREPAREDNESS

The results of the 2008 Business Preparedness Survey indicated a low sense of awareness of the need to be prepared and a low rate of preparedness, with only 56% of the sample having a formal business continuity plan in place (the goal is 100%). Of greatest concern is that only 28% of businesses encourage their staff to have emergency supplies and equipment ready at the work place.

To try to improve business preparedness, Greater Wellington has prepared a "business preparedness brochure", which was launched as part of the "Disaster Awareness Week" programme in October 2008. In addition, the territorial authorities across the region are proactively working with local businesses to encourage change in this area and to make businesses understand how they can contribute to increasing community preparedness.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The CDEM Group has prepared Public Education Strategy designed to increase public awareness about the need to be prepared. The Strategy provides for on-going activities.

Every year in mid-October, the CDEM Group (all local authorities in the region), in conjunction with the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM), run a campaign during International Disaster Awareness Week. The Wellington CDEM Group usually stages an interactive display for morning rush hour commuters at the Wellington Railway Station

Every second year over Labour weekend, the Wellington Region CDEM Group joins the Earthquake Commission, GNS Science and Te Papa in 'The Earth Rocks' - an earthquake-related extravaganza held at Te Papa. Promotional emergency awareness and preparedness materials and 15 litre water containers are distributed to encourage the public to be prepared and, in particular, to store emergency water. Normally about 20,000 people visit the displays during the 3 days over Labour weekend.

AVAILABILITY OF PLANS TO GUIDE THE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PHASES OF A CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY

The Wellington CDEM Group developed a CDEM Group Plan in 2005. This is currently being reviewed and an updated plan should be in place in 2009.

In addition, the Group has prepared the following plans:

- welfare
- recovery
- reconnaissance
- tsunami evacuation
- commuter management
- public information and media management
- public education
- rescue strategy
- road access restoration strategy
- debris disposal
- sewage disposal
- response protocols for lifeline utilities.

RESPONSE

INDICATOR

CAPACITY OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRES

All local authority members of the CDEM Group have principal and alternative emergency operations centres.

Greater Wellington provides the Group's emergency operations centre (GEMO). These centres have information management and communications systems in place and trained volunteer staff. They are ready to be activated 24/7. A number of exercises, both local and national, are held each year to test the effectiveness of the centres.

An audit of all operation centres was carried out in 2008 to determine whether they are fit for purpose.

The CDEM Group has appointed controllers for each local authority area and for the Group as a whole. In some cases, alternate controllers have been appointed. These controllers will run the response in their areas.

WHAT WE FOUND

Operations centres need to have adequate facilities, tools, systems and operating procedures, as well as trained staff in place to be able to provide an effective response to an emergency event. The audit concluded that centres in Wellington City, Hutt City and Kapiti Coast District Councils met required standards. Some concerns were raised about the other centres which are now planning to address identified shortcomings. Purpose - built emergency operations centres are very costly and, in some cases, the local authority is lacking means to fund such centres, especially with other competing community demands. Future audits will be undertaken to measure progress towards the audit recommendations.

Each year, Greater Wellington co-ordinates a major exercise ("Exercise Phoenix") to help relevant organisations test their response capabilities. This exercise involves the city and district councils and all other emergency management agencies, for example, police, fire, ambulance and social service organisations. The focus of the exercise changes each year. In 2008, welfare, public information management, and lifeline services availability were tested. Previous exercises have looked at water, road access, urban search and rescue, external supply of resources, welfare, evacuations, restoration of lifeline services, transport, and commuter management. Testing the communications systems is always a core part of the exercise.

RECOVERY

INDICATOR

AVAILABILITY OF PLANS TO EXPEDITE RECOVERY FOLLOWING A NATURAL DISASTER

Recovery activities reduce the potential for the consequences of an emergency to escalate. Recovery includes damage and needs assessment, co-ordination of resources, transportation, commuter management, environmental management, community impact analysis and funding. Recovery activities rehabilitate the emotional, social, physical and economic wellbeing of the community, and promote opportunities to both meet future community needs, and reduce future hazards and risks. There is a natural transition from response to recovery. Response activities will likely be in place for up to a week following an incident, whilst recovery activities may take considerable longer – weeks, months and even years. The recovery phase for the Kobe earthquake, Japan, 1995 is still in place.

Recovery activities, like response, need to be planned in advance.

WHAT WE FOUND

Recent events such as the Manawatu, Wanganui, Hutt City and Wairarapa floods in 2004 have identified the importance of good recovery planning. The learning from these events has been utilised in the region to develop a CDEM Group Recovery Plan, and individual recovery plans for each territorial authority. In addition, there are now specific recovery plans or guidelines in place for areas such as the disposal of debris and sewage, welfare, lifelines and infrastructure.

The CDEM Group has appointed recovery managers for each local authority area and for the Group as a whole. In some cases, alternate recovery managers have been appointed. These recovery managers will be supported by volunteer council staff.

What does all this tell us?

Over recent years, emergency management has received more attention and local authorities, together with other emergency management organisations, are working collaboratively to prepare the region to cope with major emergency events. Risk reduction is becoming more important and city and district councils are looking at building safety. Comprehensive plans are in place for all aspects of emergency management. There are fully equipped emergency operations centres across the region although the standard of some of these is questionable. This is an issue that needs to be addressed. Emergency management personnel have been appointed throughout the region.

Trends indicate that individuals and families are increasing their awareness and preparedness for an emergency. However, there remains a significant proportion of the community that is not prepared, and the indication is that there is some apathy and complacency about taking individual responsibility. Many businesses appear unaware of their individual responsibilities in preparing and supporting their staff for an emergency, and of the need to minimise their business loss and speed up business recovery following an emergency event. Public education will need to continue to ensure that the current level of awareness and preparedness is improved.

Significant flood protection has been carried out in the region and some communities can now feel much safer. While good progress has been made, there is still more work to do. Similarly, water supply authorities have been mindful of the need to ensure the resilience of the network and works to upgrade infrastructure are on-going in most areas.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington's *Proposed 10 -Year 2009-19* Plan provides for Greater Wellington to do the following:

- upgrade Greater Wellington's Masterton office to provide for an alternative emergency management operations centre for the CDEM Group
- upgrade the CDEM Group's emergency operations centre's radio communication system
- continue to prepare and test key organisations' readiness by carrying out annual exercises
- continue public education and awareness raising and carry out further surveys to monitor the community's level of readiness
- contribute to the "It's Our Fault" research project on the Wellington fault line
- arrange for further independent audits of the capacity of the regions' emergency operations centres
- continue with the review and development of regional plans relating to emergency management
- continue investment in flood protection infrastructure and flood plain management. Greater Wellington has budged $40 million over the ten year life of the plan. This will ensure that the work on the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae rivers is on track to be completed by 2040. In addition, improvements will be carried out on the Waiwhetu stream in Hutt City and on the Waiohine and Lower Ruamahanga rivers in the Wairarapa. Greater Wellington will also complete flood planning work on the Waiwhetu stream, Pinehaven stream, Mangaroa rive, Waiohine river and on the flood plain adjacent to Masterton.
- continue investment in water infrastructure upgradings to improve the security of supply, with expected expenditure of about $200,000 per annum.

CONNNECTED COMMUNITY

CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Access is quick and easy – locally, nationally and internationally.

Our communication networks, air and sea ports, road and public transport systems enable us to link well with others, both within and outside the region.

Why is a connected community important?

The Wellington region boasts a world class lifestyle. Wellington city rated 12th in a quality of living index covering 350 countries worldwide. Such a lifestyle must be maintained to remain internationally competitive and retain talent. To be successful we need to maintain strong cities and town centres and make decisions about transport that meet urban and rural needs. We need to enable businesses to export and develop global connections. And we need to enable individuals to have quality lifestyles.

Connectivity across the region's community and with those outside the region, both nationally and internationally, is critical to facilitating economic development and effectively responding to the challenges of becoming a successful knowledge society. Good transport networks enhance the lifestyle of residents and a reliable public transport service supports a healthy environment.

What and who influences the Connected Community outcome?

Transport systems and communication systems within and beyond the region are the means of achieving a Connected Community. The regulators, funders and providers of these services are therefore the principal influencers of the achievement of this outcome. Central government, local and regional government and the commercial sector all have a contribution to make.

What have we focused on?

Nine indicators have been identified across the three focus areas of transport infrastructure, public transport and communication networks.

INDICATORS FOR CONNECTED COMMUNITY

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE	PUBLIC TRANSPORT	COMMUNICATION NETWORKS
• Average congestion rates on selected roads • Level of short trips made by walking and cycling	• Availability and use of public transport – – accessibility of public transport – patronage of bus, train & ferry • Community perceptions of public transport – affordability – safety – ease of access – frequency – reliability – ease of use – delivery of service • Level of understanding among residents of public transport services • Passenger numbers through Wellington International Airport • Passenger numbers on Cook Strait ferries	• Percentage of residential population with phone, mobile phone, and internet access • Availability, speed, cost and reliability of broadband

SOURCES

Annual Monitoring Report on the Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007/08, Greater Wellington Regional Council

Annual Public Transport Satisfaction Monitor 2008, Greater Wellington Regional Council (unpublished)

Census 2006, Statistics New Zealand

Wellington Regional Outlook June 2008, Grow Wellington

Wellington Region Broadband Gap Analysis Report and Recommendations, Grow Wellington, 2008 (unpublished)

Quality of Life Survey 2008, AC Neilson

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

INDICATORS

The Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) sets the strategic direction for the region's land transport network. The two indicators below reflect targets in that Strategy. Other targets within the Strategy are relevant to other outcomes, eg, the Healthy Community, Healthy Environment and Prosperous Community outcomes.

AVERAGE CONGESTION RATES

Road congestion impacts on the lives of many people. It is one of the key indicators utilised by measuring the effectiveness of the Regional Land Transport Strategy. The Strategy has established the target of average congestion on selected roads being below 20 seconds delay per kilometre travelled, despite traffic growth by 2016.

LEVEL OF SHORT TRIPS MADE BY WALKING AND CYCLING

Greater use of the active modes of travel has the potential to relieve congestion. It will also reduce the environmental effects of motorised travel and promote individual and community health. The Regional Land Transport Strategy has established a target to have at least 80% of all trips up to 1 km and 60% of all trips between 1 and 2 kms accomplished by walking or cycling, by 2016. The Strategy also aims to improve services for people choosing active modes of transport.

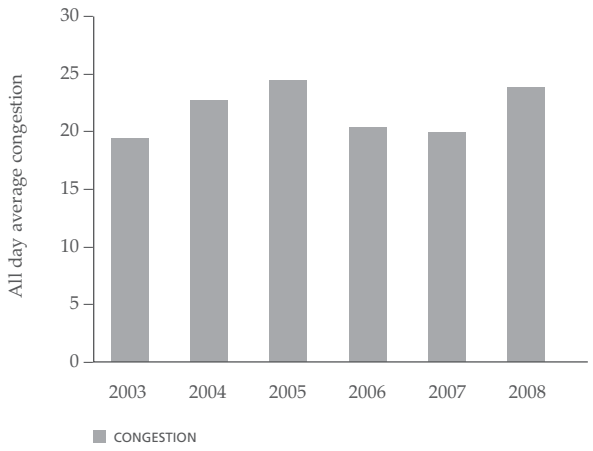
WHAT WE FOUND

CONGESTION

The New Zealand Transport Agency's travel time surveys continue to show that Wellington's congestion levels generally compare favourably with other New Zealand centres despite a recent increase in the "all day average" congestion level.

The all day average congestion level showed a decreasing trend across the region from 2005 to 2007 but increased again in 2008. Average congestion was 24.6 seconds delay per km travelled in 2008. This represents a 21% increase from 2007 and follows the significant drop in congestion (19%) experienced in the years between 2005 and 2007. Graph 6.1 shows all day average congestion on a selection of areas in the region's strategic road network.

GRAPH 6.1: ALL DAY AVERAGE CONGESTION ON A SELECTION OF THE REGION'S ROADS



DATA SOURCE Transit New Zealand (March travel time surveys)

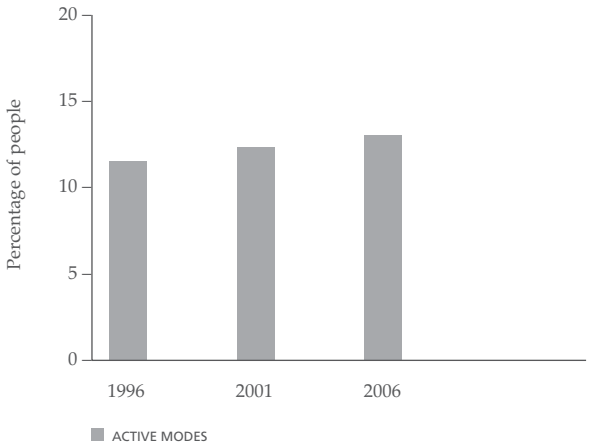
While the survey results reflect the level of service the road network offers, the fact that it is averaged out over the whole measured network means localised problems are masked. Congestion in the region appears to occur during the peak periods on a number of pinch points over the network, such as the merge of State Highway 1 and State Highway 2 at Ngauranga.

SHORT TRIPS MADE BY WALKING OR CYCLING

Census data from 2006 indicates that there has been an increase in the number of people choosing to walk, jog or bicycle to work each day. (see Graph 6.2.) The use of active modes in travelling to work was over 13% in 2006 representing an increase of 17% (3,500 more trips) from 2001.

A more localised survey of Wellington City carried out between February and April 2006 showed that 74% of trips up to 1 km and 27% of trips between 1 and 2 kms were made by walking and cycling.

GRAPH 6.2: PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WHO TRAVEL TO WORK BY WALKING, JOGGING OR CYCLING (ACTIVE MODE) IN THE WELLINGTON REGION



SOURCE Statistics New Zealand

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

INDICATORS

AVAILABILITY AND USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT – BUS, TRAIN AND FERRY

The Wellington region has an extensive public transport network - four passenger train lines (with 52 stations), 103 bus routes (with 2,800 bus stops), and two harbour ferry routes.

The Regional Land Transport Strategy (RTLS) contains passenger transport targets for 2016 of:

- at least 25 million peak period trips per annum
- at least 25 million off-peak period trips per annum
- at least 21% of all journey to work trips being achieved through passenger transport

The RTLS also contains a target that "most of the regions' residents live within 400 metres (5 minutes walk) of a bus stop or train station with a service frequency of at least 30 minutes."

Greater Wellington reports on progress towards these targets in its Annual Monitoring Report on the RLTS.

The Annual Public Transport Satisfaction Monitor 2008 and the Quality of Life Survey 2008 both sought information from respondents about their use of public transport.

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Regional Land Transport Strategy includes targets for quality aspects of passenger transport services, relating to:

- wheelchair accessibility
- residents' proximity to bus and train stops and frequency of services
- peak period journey times
- reliability of bus and train services
- affordability of services

The Annual Monitoring report assesses the achievement of these quality aspects of passenger transport. In addition, the Quality of Life Survey 2008 and the Annual Public Transport Satisfaction Monitor 2008 asked residents for their perceptions of the following aspects of public transport services:

- affordability
- safety
- ease of access
- frequency
- reliability

USE AND PASSENGER NUMBERS THROUGH WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Grow Wellington reports on the volume of domestic and international passengers passing through Wellington International Airport.

PASSENGER NUMBERS ON COOK STRAIT FERRIES

Port Marlborough New Zealand Ltd. has reported on ferry passenger numbers between Wellington and Picton.

WHAT WE FOUND

AVAILABILITY AND USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

In 2008, 75% of the region's population lived within 400 metres of a public transport stop with a regular service. 57% of the population were within that distance from a stop that had an average service frequency of 30 minutes or better. Both of these indicators showed a 2.4% increase over 2007.

The total number of peak passenger trips by public transport rose during the six year period, July 2002 – June 2008, from around 16 million passenger trips in 2002 to approximately 17.5 million in 2008. The overall trend is a steady increase in patronage. The number peaked in 2006 at 18 million trips. In 2007 there was a decrease of approximately half a million trips but there has been some recovery of trip numbers in 2008, with an increase of 0.2% (or just under 35,000 passenger trips) over 2007.

Peak period bus use has declined slightly over the last couple of years, with strong gains in 2007, offset by a fall of over 200,000 (2.1%) in 2008. However, peak period train use continued to grow, with an increase of 240,000 (3.3%) in 2008, following an earlier increase of 3.5% in 2007.

As a proportion of total public transport, ferries carry very small numbers of commuters. Nevertheless, after a decrease in harbour ferry use in 2007, peak period ferry service recorded an increase of 10% (more than 8,000 passengers) during peak periods in 2008. A quarter of this increase can be accounted for by the commencement of the Seatoun commuter service in March 2008.

Buses consistently account for most journeys by public transport during the peak periods at almost 60% of total passenger trips since 2002. However, rail trips are typically three to four times longer so account for most passenger kilometres (over 70% in peak periods).

Off-peak passenger trips increased by 3.2% in 2008 (mainly because of a 3% increase in bus trips), continuing an overall rising trend.

Responses to the Annual Public Transport Satisfaction Monitor 2008 indicated that:

- 71% of residents are users of public transport (had used public transport in the last three months)
- 12% are light users (had not used in last three months but had used in the last 12 months)
- 18% are non-users of public transport.

These figures have been fairly consistent since 2004. Wellington city residents have the highest per capita rate of use of public transport in the country.

The Quality of Life survey showed that 28% of the region's residents used public transport regularly (at least twice a week) with Wellington city residents being the greatest users (35%).

SATISFACTION WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Overall, residents indicated, through Greater Wellington's annual public transport satisfaction monitor, that they were happy with the public transport services and network in the region, with 60% of respondents in 2008 saying the region has an excellent or very good public transport system. The results for the 2008 survey indicated that residents remain generally happy with the public transport services and network in the region.

People in the region report that the most important public transport service deliverables are reliability, frequency, low cost and provision of services at convenient times. Overall the community is satisfied that the public transport system in the region is delivering on these areas (50-60%).

Respondents indicated that the Metlink public transport network is most well regarded for its delivery of:

- a simple to use system
- accessible timetable information
- clean vehicles
- easy to access services.

and least well regarded for its delivery of:

- thorough coverage of the Greater Wellington region
- high quality vehicles
- high quality service.

Some people struggle to understand the fare structure (56% of respondents) and only half of the respondents indicated that they found it easy to make a journey that requires a combination of buses and trains. Only 52% of people agree it is easy to understand how to get a ticket for use on the public transport system.

Other perceptions of residents regarding the region's public transport system include:

- most residents agree there is a bus or train stop close enough to their home to make public transport accessible for them (84%)
- nearly two-thirds of residents agree the cost charged for each type of journey using public transport is fair (64%)
- just over half of residents believe the cost of public transport fares should increase as the cost of providing the service increases (51%)
- more than half of residents agree that journeys on public transport are cheaper than journeys in private cars (59%)
- few residents believe that journeys on public transport are faster than journeys in private cars (27%).·

Fewer than half of residents take into account the environment when deciding whether to use public transport (46%).

The Quality of Life survey showed that a high proportion of residents (over 80%) think that the public transport system is safe and easy to get to, but a much lower proportion consider that it is affordable (60%), frequent (66%) and reliable (60%).

CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE THE REGION BY AIR TRANSPORT

As well as having an extensive land transport system, the Wellington region is well- connected to centres outside the region through Wellington International Airport, the second busiest airport in the country in terms of passenger numbers.

In the year to February 2008, domestic passengers passing through the airport rose 7.3% over the same period to February 2007. The region, as with New Zealand as whole, has benefited from the introduction of Pacific Blue into the domestic market since November 2007. It is anticipated that air travel will continue to increase as the full impact of capacity and lower fares takes effect.

After a sluggish year to February 2007, international passenger figures recovered well in the latest year, up 4.9% (a rise of 46,000) in the year to February 2008.

COOK STRAIT FERRY USE

Total passenger numbers on Cook Strait ferries in 2007/08 exceeded 1.2 million. The ferry services are an important aspect of the region's residents connecting with other parts of New Zealand, and of visitors connecting with the region.

COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

INDICATORS

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTIAL POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO PHONE, MOBILE PHONE, AND INTERNET

Census 2006 provides data about the percentage of the population who have access to phone, mobile phone and internet.

AVAILABILITY AND UPTAKE OF BROADBAND

Availability of broadband refers to the existence of infrastructure that enables people to access it (uptake).

The availability and uptake of broadband in New Zealand is poor by international standards and user costs are also high comparatively.This has been of concern to central government because of the limits it puts on growth and innovation in business, research,and education and in the opportunities which individuals and communities miss out on.

The Wellington Regional Strategy has set 5Mbps open access and symmetrical provision as a goal for broadband provision in the Wellington region. This goal was taken from the Government's first Digital Strategy. A more recent Digital Strategy (2008) has a goal of open access fibre connectivity for MUSH (municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals) entities and 10 Mbps as reference points.

Grow Wellington has explored the gaps in the region's broadband provision and the potential for further development, using recent surveys in the Tararua/Wairarapa area, the Kapiti/Horowhenua area and in the 4 cities of Wellington, Porirua, Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt. The surveys and report explore both coverage and uptake for broadband, as well as commenting on where gaps occur, where there is a lack of alternative provision, and in which sectors (including residential, education/health and business sectors) there is unmet demand.

The State Services Commission is also developing the National Broadband Map, but at the time of this report, data was not available from that source.

WHAT WE FOUND

People in the Greater Wellington region have, on the whole, slightly better access to telephones, mobile phones and internet than the New Zealand population as a whole (See Table 6.1).

Access for telephone, mobile phone and internet is similar across the region. Fixed phone access ranges between Kapiti District Council at 91.33%, to Porirua at 86.05%. This compares with a national figure of 87.84%. The highest proportion of mobile phone users live in Wellington City (75.9%) and the lowest in Masterton District (67.94%), compared with a national figure of 71.15%.

The internet facility is available to almost two thirds of households in the region compared with a national figure of approximately 58%. Households in Wellington City have the highest rate of access to internet, the lowest access being in the Masterton district. Generally speaking, households in the three cities of Wellington, Lower Hutt, and Upper Hutt together with the Kapiti district have better access to telecommunication systems than households in the other areas of the region. (see table 6.2)

TABLE 6.1: PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTIAL POPULATION WITH PHONE, MOBILE PHONE, INTERNET ACCESS

AREA	% ACCESS TO CELLPHONE/ MOBILE PHONE	% ACCESS TO TELEPHONE	% ACCESS TO INTERNET	% WITH NO ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
Total NZ by Regional Council / Area Unit	71.15	87.84	58.02	1.95	1454106
Wellington Region	73.69	89.95	63.22	1.58	166965
Kapiti Coast District	70.84	91.33	61.36	1.13	19107
Porirua City	73.59	86.05	58.04	2.22	15393
Upper Hutt City	73.94	92.20	62.57	1.40	14124
Lower Hutt City	73.18	89.77	59.55	2.04	35361
Wellington City	75.90	90.51	69.31	1.26	67710
Masterton District	67.94	87.99	50.59	2.12	8889
Carterton District	69.53	89.34	55.60	1.52	2757
South Wairarapa District	69.10	87.16	56.26	1.74	3621

SOURCE Statistics New Zealand, 2006 census data (percentages calculated using population counts at time of census)

TABLE 6.2: AVAILABILITY AND UPTAKE OF BROADBAND

AREA	AVAILABILITY %	UPTAKE %
National	95	35.4 [6]
Wairarapa / Tararua[7]	92.3	25.8
Kapiti Coast	97	65
Four cities	100	38.3

While the rates of uptake are low by international standards, on a national basis, the rate of uptake in the Wellington region is second only to that of the Auckland region at 43%. Total uptake in the farming sector (across all districts) is a respectable 35%, compared to the national average of 32%.

A significant contributor to Wellington region's standing is the fact that the Kapiti area has an impressive 65% uptake. This strong uptake seems to reflect the early provision of fast broadband services from Kiwi Cable, later purchased by Saturn and now part of TelstraClear's offering in the region. Up to 1Gbps symmetric is available to high-end and business users from Paraparaumu and Otaki via FX Networks, and from all three POPs in the area via TelstraClear and Telecom. Fast broadband is available via TelstraClear's Hybrid Fibre-Coaxial (HFC) cable service, but exact coverage is unknown, and the service is asymmetric, i.e. maximum of 2Mbps upload.

[6] The national average uptake measure was last reported in October 2007 and has been increasing steadily since that time. The regional figures are based on surveys carried out since that time. Uptake relative to national uptake may therefore be less favourable than reported.

[7] Data for the Wairarapa District can not be disaggregated from the Tararua District figures.

There are two major telecommunications companies – TelstraClear and Telecom NZ– with comprehensive services across the four cities, from regional and inter-regional fibre networks through to last-mile infrastructure over twisted-pair copper wires (Telecom NZ) and hybrid fibre and coaxial cables (TelstraClear HFC). The infrastructure does not include open-access fibre.

Metropolitan fibre networks – CityLink, SmartLinx3, FX Networks and Vector Communications – are addressing the needs of high-end and business users in the CBDs. Wireless network operators – Woosh, NZ Wireless, Araneo, Kordia's Extend service, and Telecom NZ's Metro WiFi – provide alternative coverage across the four cities, and LINKIT is trialling fast broadband provision via WiMax in the Hutt Valley.

In Masterton, up to 1Gbps is available to high-end and business users, with fibre links through to Palmerston North provided by Inspire.Net.

UNMET NEED FOR INTERNET SERVICES

There are some isolated farming communities in Kapiti Coast district that remain unconnected. Some experimental broadband wireless access is being provided by LINKIT in association with Kapiti Coast District Council in the area from Otaki to Waikanae but, in general, restrictions on last-mile access – even on TelstraClear's HFC service – mean that fast broadband will be unavailable in the near future beyond a 4-5 km corridor either side of the State Highway 1 and main trunk line railway corridors and greater than 5 km from urban centres.

Those missing out include:

- Residents, small businesses, tourism and hospitality operators and farmers in the area around Otaki and up the Otaki valley
- Film and creative businesses around Raumati and possibly as far north as Te Horo, with high-speed connections back to Wellington City
- Businesses based in (or planned to move to) Lindale business precinct, including possible re-development of the Lindale telecommuting centre

Likewise in the Wairarapa, there is no fast broadband service planned beyond a 4-5 km corridor either side of SH2 and greater than 5 km from urban centres, i.e. Masterton, Carterton, Featherston and Martinborough.

Aside from these specific needs, the region and New Zealand generally lack open access fibre technology. This factor and the cost of internet use is inhibiting uptake.

What does all this tell us?

Residents in the region are generally well connected, both in terms of access to people and places within the region and within New Zealand. The Wellington region has a good and reliable public transport service. Public transport is becoming increasingly popular and important to residents. Not unexpectedly, residents, business and government are able to identify improvements that could be made to the public transport system which could increase its use and its benefit to the environment.

Wellington International Airport is the second busiest airport in the country, with regard to passenger numbers, and provides a critical resource for the region to develop national and global connections. There is scope to grow the potential of the airport, for example, with the provision of direct long haul flights to Asia.

In comparison with other New Zealand regions, the community is well served with telecommunication systems – both in urban and rural areas. However, in common with all of New Zealand, work needs to continue to develop the availability and speed of broadband, which is critical to becoming a successful knowledge society and supporting viable business enterprises. This is also important for many private users as part of their lifestyles. The impact of the limited availability, high cost and low speed of broadband is now becoming apparent for some businesses in the region.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington's *Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009-19* provides for the following:

- Greater Wellington will continue to carry out its transport network planning role, including preparing 3 yearly regional transport programmes for funding allocations
- Greater Wellington will also work in partnership with local authorities and relevant businesses and organisations to:
  - continue to promote and support school, business and community travel plans
  - encourage, through the Wellington Regional Strategy and the Regional Policy Statement, urban form that reduces dependence on private vehicle use
  - promote and support active modes of travel
  - develop a Regional Freight Plan
  - provide upgraded and new trains
  - provide funding to electrify the rail route from Wellington to Waikanae
  - upgrade the Johnsonville rail line
  - provide funding to improve the rail entrance to Wellington station
  - provide a real-time information system to support public transport users.
- Greater Wellington will, as part of its contribution to the Wellington Regional Strategy, facilitate a broadband project that aims to deliver a high-speed capacity fibre-optic-based network throughout the region.

ENTREPRENEURIAL AND INNOVATIVE REGION

ENTREPRENEURIAL AND INNOVATIVE REGION

Innovation and new endeavors are welcomed and encouraged. Ideas are exchanged across all sectors, resulting in a creative business culture.

We have excellent education and research institutions, and benefit from being the seat of government.

Why is it important to have an entrepreneurial and innovative region?

Entrepreneurship and innovation will continuously stimulate the regional economy that delivers employment to residents, attracts talented people from other places in New Zealand and overseas to live and work here, and contributes to a stimulating environment that produces a high quality of life.

Who and what influences the region being entrepreneurial and innovative?

A number of factors influence the region's capacity to be entrepreneurial and innovative including:

- the global and national economy
- the education sector
- the science, research and technology sectors
- the creative sector
- the labour market
- central and local government policies and initiatives

What have we focused on?

Thirteen indicators have been chosen across four focus areas to show a picture of the region's current capacity to support entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as some activity that points to the potential for growth. The four focus areas are:

- Growth
- Talent
- Creativity and Innovation
- Investment

INDICATORS FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL AND INNOVATIVE REGION

GROWTH	TALENT	CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION	INVESTMENT
• Total number of registered businesses and number of new businesses registered • Average business size and changes in business size • Level of business confidence	• Employment in and revenue generated by "the Creative Class" (as defined by Richard Florida) • Highest qualifications of working-age population • Number of people involved in science and technology research • Entrepreneurial courses and entrepreneurial activity at Tertiary Education Institutions • Short length entrepreneurial skill courses provided in the region	• Level of new business incubates • Level of participation of regional enterprises in business competitions (Cable Car Challenge, Gold Awards, Deloitte's Unlimited Fast 50, Export Awards and the Sustainability Awards) • Level of new patent applications within the region	• Level of research and development expenditure • Investment support provided and actual investment – Angel Investment – Venture Capital and Private Equity funds – Private Investment – Use of Trade and Enterprise's Escalator programme

Some indicators in the Prosperous Community outcome are also relevant to this outcome, since an Entrepreneurial and Innovative Region will contribute to a Prosperous Community.

PUBLISHED SOURCES

- *Wellington Regional Outlook: your guide to the Wellington Regional Economy,* Grow Wellington, June 2008.
- *Annual Report 2007/08*, Grow Wellington
- Business Confidence Survey Results, Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce, 20 October 2008
- *A Decade in Review (1994-2004),* Ministry of Research, Science and Technology **http://www.morst.govt.nz/publications/statistics/decade-in-review/**

OTHER SOURCES

- Data has been provided directly to Greater Wellington by:
  - New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
  - Creative HQ
  - Escalator
  - The Companies Office (MED)
  - Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ)
  - New Zealand Venture Capital Association (NZVCA)
  - New Zealand Venture Investment Fund (NZVIF)
- BERL analysed existing data to provide information about employment in "the creative class" and changes in company size.

GROWTH

INDICATORS

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED BUSINESSES AND NUMBER OF NEW BUSINESSES REGISTERED

The total numbers of registered businesses and number of new businesses may give some indication of the vigour of entrepreneurship in the region. The Companies' Office of the Ministry for Economic Development records this data as part of their responsibilities.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FTE EMPLOYEES IN THE REGION

The total number of FTEs (full time equivalent employees in the region) is likely to reflect economic growth, though the percentage increase in employees may not be the same as the percentage increase in economic output. This data was provided by BERL.

AVERAGE BUSINESS SIZE AND CHANGES IN BUSINESS SIZE

The expansion of businesses as indicated by the number of FTEs they employ is a good indicator of growth in the economy and likely to reflect entrepreneurship of their owners, stakeholders and management. Grow Wellington reports this data in their Regional Outlook report. Their report is based on Statistics New Zealand data compiled by BERL to create a regional data base.

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE

The Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce undertakes a quarterly survey of around 5,000 businesses in the region to assess business confidence. Levels of business confidence affect decisions about business growth.

WHAT WE FOUND

The Companies Office website reported that: "The number of new companies registered in New Zealand has steadily grown since 2000. From July 2006 to June 2007 a record number of 74,247 companies were incorporated in New Zealand. This brought the total number of active companies on the register to 474,212."[8]

The growth in company registrations in the Wellington region reflects that of New Zealand as a whole. There was a peak year in 2006/07 of new company registrations across the region, with 13.5% (6,087) of all 45,020 registered companies being new registrations. While there was a drop in new registrations in the following year, the total number of companies registered still rose by 5.5% (see Table 7.1). During the three year period 1 July 2005 - 30 June 2008 there has been an overall increase of 6,381 registered companies (or 15.5%).

With the data available, it is not possible to assess whether the main business of these companies is in the Wellington region or elsewhere and therefore whether they truly reflect entrepreneurship and innovation within this region. Nevertheless, the growth in the number of company registrations is encouraging.

[8] Companies Office, MED, 2008

TABLE 7.1: COMPANIES REGISTERED IN THE WELLINGTON REGION

	1 JULY 2005 - 30 JUNE 2006		1 JULY 2006 - 30 JUNE 2007		1 JULY 2007 - 30 JUNE 2008	
AREA	NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED	TOTAL COMPANIES REGISTERED	NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED	TOTAL COMPANIES REGISTERED	NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED	TOTAL COMPANIES REGISTERED
Wellington City	3418	29080	4257	31677	3697	33266
Upper Hutt City	231	1942	280	2145	253	2263
Lower Hutt City	873	7577	1068	8307	965	8876
Wairarapa	25	208	34	232	22	247
Porirua City	330	2136	409	2435	338	2632
Kapiti Coast	26	190	39	224	26	230
Wellington Region Total	**4903**	**41133**	**6087**	**45020**	**5301**	**47514**

SOURCE Companies Office, Ministry for Economic Development

NOTE Some error may exist in this table. Companies have been assigned to the area which appears in the address field of the data base.

The Wellington region employed 221,974 FTEs in 2008, compared with 197,436 in 2003 a rise of 1.12%. In 2003, Wellington region FTEs were 12.03% of all New Zealand FTEs, whereas in 2008 the percentage was 11.9%

Grow Wellington's publication "Wellington Regional Outlook" (June 2008) provides the following snapshot of Wellington's businesses (see Table 7.2): "More than 85% of businesses in the Wellington region and New Zealand employed five or fewer employees in 2007.

More than three-fifths of businesses in the Wellington region and New Zealand employed no employees. The majority of these businesses were owner-operated with no additional staff, although some may be partnerships or firms that employ staff on a contract basis. A further fifth of businesses employed one to five additional workers. A very small portion of businesses employed more than 49 employees: 1.6% in the Wellington region and 1.2% in New Zealand as a whole."[9]

TABLE 7.2: NUMBER OF BUSINESSES BY EMPLOYMENT COUNT (2007)

BUSINESS SIZE	NONE	1-5	6-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100+	TOTAL
Wellington Region	32,499	10,960	2,755	2,301	1,374	451	338	50,678
% of businesses	64.1%	21.6%	5.4%	4.5%	2.7%	0.9%	0.7%	100.0%
New Zealand	321,775	112,283	26,196	21,636	12,124	3,548	2,378	499,940
% of businesses	64.4%	22.5%	5.2%	4.3%	2.4%	0.7%	0.5%	100.0%

DATA SOURCE BERL, Statistics

[9] Wellington Regional Outlook, June 2008, Grow Wellington, S2.3

In 2008, over 35% of all employees in the region worked for organisations with fewer than 20 FTE employees (compared to almost 43% in NZ). (see Table 7.3). Over the last six years more people (as a percentage of all employees) are being employed in larger companies (over 20 employees) than smaller organisations – both at a regional and national level. While more people in the Wellington region are now being employed in companies with more than 49 employees than in 2003, the percentage of people employed in such companies has dropped slightly over that period from 54.1% to 52.7%.

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE

Not surprisingly, the last published Business Confidence Survey carried out by the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce in October 2008 reflects the global economic crisis. The report states that:

"In the midst of financial turmoil, the latest Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce survey has recorded a sharp drop in business confidence. For the first time since our survey began there are more businesses expecting their situation to worsen over the next six months than to improve. The result is unsurprising given the relentless bad financial news over the last three weeks. Access to credit is becoming a major factor for businesses. Taken during the week ending 17 October, our survey shows 15% of Wellington businesses experienced increased difficulty getting credit in the last month. Businesses are getting squeezed at the other end as households are spending less - spooked by falling house prices and tighter credit. This is evident from our survey which shows an increasing number of respondents reporting slower sales as an issue of concern. The survey also shows signs that the labour market has turned. There are more businesses expecting a reduction in their employee numbers than an increase for the first time in at least two years (since we started asking the question in the survey).

Notwithstanding this, there are still a large number of businesses citing skill shortages and difficulty recruiting staff as areas of concern. It is significant that in response to a one-off question this time round – "Are you likely to reduce the number of staff you currently employ in the coming months?" 24% of respondents said yes. Investment intentions are low with 19% of respondents expecting to make a major investment in next 12 months.

Paradoxically an increasing number of respondents are expecting the economy to improve compared with our last survey three months ago. Perhaps this is due to a feeling that things can't get much worse. When it comes to their own prospects, however, there is unprecedented pessimism with a net 4% of businesses expecting a deterioration compared with a net 20% of businesses expecting an improvement last time."

The Chamber of Commerce also noted that "Our survey suggests businesses are more confident about the prospects for Wellington than the country as a whole."[10]

[10] Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce, Business Confidence Survey Results, 20 October 2008

TABLE 7.3: NUMBER OF FTES BY EMPLOYMENT SIZE

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Greater Wellington						
1 to 5	28,021	27,457	28,395	29,615	29,427	29,023
6 to 9	17,423	18,274	18,747	19,617	19,834	19,825
10 to 19	27,422	26,650	27,683	28,875	29,811	29,911
20 to 49	34,068	34,865	36,862	37,709	37,899	38,254
50 to 99	25,671	25,004	25,169	25,126	27,083	27,234
100+	64,832	64,455	69,170	74,099	76,224	77,726
All	197,436	196,706	206,027	215,041	220,279	221,974
New Zealand						
1 to 5	397,181	293,687	300,291	314,828	315,012	312,802
6 to 9	182,019	180,789	185,507	192,789	195,868	196,460
10 to 19	248,861	260,193	271,983	280,201	285,723	285,783
20 to 49	281,937	313,980	323,054	329,390	336,824	338,373
50 to 99	178,289	198,092	208,229	208,800	216,822	219,333
100+	351,930	443,835	462,215	482,598	495,185	507,369
All	1,640,269	1,690,949	1,751,699	1,809,041	1,845,434	1,860,120

TALENT

INDICATORS

EMPLOYMENT IN THE "CREATIVE CLASS"

A Carnegie Mellon professor, Richard Florida, in his popular book the "The Rise of the Creative Class", identified 4 core industry categories that are creative and contribute to the economic development of an area. These are:

Super Creative Core 1
- arts, film, television, museums and publishing

Super Creative Core 2
- IT, engineering, sciences, telecoms and high tech research

Super Creative Core 3
- education, recreation, media and other

Rest of the Creative Class
- management, business, finance and legal professionals

BERL has provided data relating to employment in these classes.

HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS OF THE WORKING AGE POPULATION

Census data contains information about the highest educational qualifications people hold. The data gives some indication of the levels of knowledge, skill and critical thinking that people bring to their employment situations.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

An indicator that is frequently used to measure R&D performance is to estimate the amount of human resource devoted to that activity. R&D survey data in "A Decade in Review" shows that more than 70% of the R&D effort is provided by researchers. The Statistics New Zealand Business demography data for 2008 provides information about researchers in the Wellington region.

ENTREPRENEURIAL COURSES AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY AT TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

A brief description is provided of the orientation of three tertiary institutes in the region, Victoria University, Massey University and WelTec to educational and research support of innovation and entrepreneurship.

SHORT LENGTH ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILL COURSES PROVIDED IN THE REGION

It is not possible to provide information about the full range of short entrepreneurial courses that is available throughout the region across all types of training providers, public and private and formal and informal. Many business training courses also exist where entrepreneurship is not the major focus. However, a description of provision with indicative numbers of programmes provided or businesses assisted is given for:

- Enterprise Training Programmes provided by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE)
- Activate programmes provided by Creative HQ
- Business training programmes provided by the Institute of Directors, NZ Institute of Management, Employers' and Manufacturers' Association and the Chamber of Commerce

Data relating to NZTE programmes is available for Wellington region (excluding Kapiti) and for Horowhenua-Kapiti. The number of workshops can depend on NZTE's purchasing policy in any year, rather than on demand from enterprises.

WHAT WE FOUND

TALENT IN THE REGION

The Creative Classes reflect almost 19% of the region's employment (compared with almost 14% for New Zealand as a whole) (see Table 7.4).

Over the last 6 years the Wellington region has seen a 12% (compared with 22.3% for NZ as a whole) increase in employment in the "creative classes". The highest contributors have been the education, recreation and media industries (Super Creative Core 3)– with an increase of almost 24% employment over the period in the region (compared to just under 17% increase for New Zealand as a whole). Kapiti Coast district, Upper Hutt city and Porirua city were significant contributors to the region, with 81%, 52% and 35% increases respectively in employment in the Super Creative Core 3 area over the 6 year period.

It is also worth noting that:

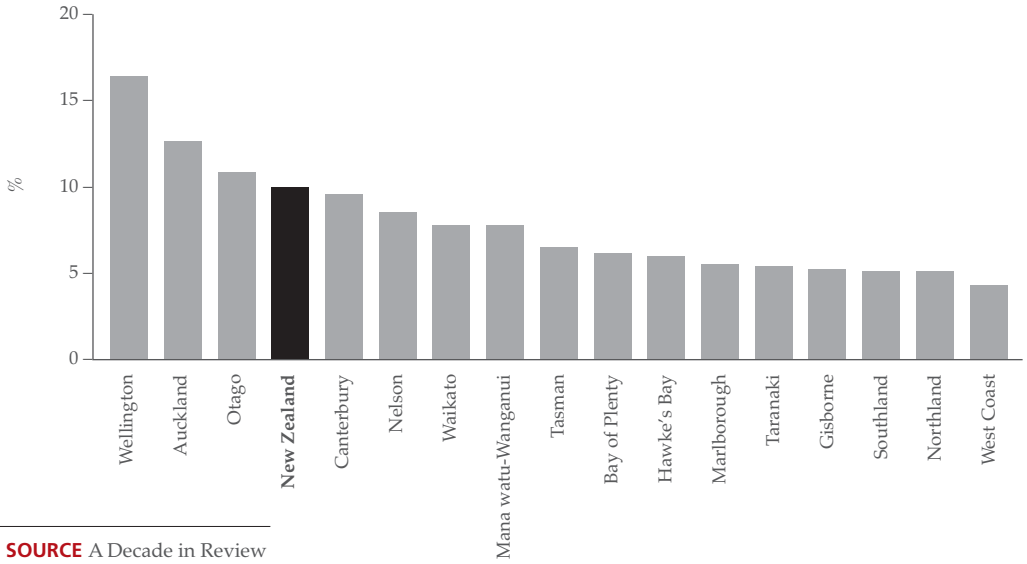
- over the 6 year period Kapiti Coast district and Upper Hutt city have seen increases of 24% and 25% respectively, in employment in the Super Creative Core 2 – IT, engineering, sciences, telecoms and high tech research.
- in 2006, Wellington City saw a significant increase in employment in arts and films industries, reflected in an increase of 11.4% in the Super Creative Core 1 category.
- the highest overall increase in employment in the creative classes has been in Wairarapa at 32%. This is a result of substantial increased employment in the IT area, whereas all other Creative Cores are now less well represented in the area.

TABLE 7.4: EMPLOYMENT IN THE CREATIVE CLASSES IN THE WELLINGTON REGION

	PROPORTION OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% GROWTH 2003- 2008
Wellington Region							
Super Creative Core 1	2.15%	2.09%	2.00%	2.09%	1.96%	1.93%	0.83%
Super Creative Core 2	6.34%	6.24%	6.18%	6.12%	6.07%	6.24%	10.54%
Super Creative Core 3	4.07%	4.21%	4.36%	4.24%	4.47%	4.48%	23.68%
Rest of the Creative Class	6.30%	6.25%	6.33%	5.98%	6.17%	6.14%	9.65%
Total Creative Class	18.86%	18.80%	18.88%	18.43%	18.67%	18.78%	11.98%
Non Creative Class	81.14%	81.20%	81.12%	81.57%	81.33%	81.22%	12.53%
							12.43%
New Zealand							
Super Creative Core 1	1.27%	1.27%	1.27%	1.31%	1.28%	1.26%	11.93%
Super Creative Core 2	3.55%	3.55%	3.64%	3.72%	3.81%	3.90%	24.80%
Super Creative Core 3	3.80%	3.93%	4.09%	4.06%	4.00%	3.91%	16.77%
Rest of the Creative Class	4.34%	4.38%	4.57%	4.80%	4.80%	4.90%	28.10%
Total Creative Class	12.96%	13.13%	13.57%	13.89%	13.88%	13.98%	22.29%
Non Creative Class	87.04%	86.87%	86.43%	86.11%	86.12%	86.02%	12.08%
							13.40%

The Wellington region has historically had a greater than average share of university-qualified people as illustrated in the graph below (Graph 7.1)

GRAPH 7.1: REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF UNIVERSITY-QUALIFIED PEOPLE



SOURCE A Decade in Review

In the Wellington region at the time of the 2006 census there were 54,000 people employed with science and technology qualifications representing 16 percent of the adult population in the region. In Auckland there were 122,000 people so qualified, representing 13 percent of the adult population in that region, and in Otago there were 16,000 representing 11 percent of the adult population in that region. Twenty percent of the 7,410 employees recorded as being employed in scientific research services in the Statistics New Zealand Business demography data in 2008 were located in the Wellington region.

Six of the nine Crown Research Institutes have research sites in the Wellington region and a number of other nationally significant research bodies are also located in here. However, all are national organisations and their presence in the region does not necessarily mean that the innovation and development provided by their researchers benefit this region more than other regions.

SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION FROM TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Tertiary education providers support entrepreneurship and innovation through both of their key functions - education and research.

Massey University has been teaching small business management and entrepreneurship since the mid 1980s and now offers a major in 'Enterprise Development' (a subject that includes both entrepreneurship and small business management) within its Bachelor of Business Studies. The courses - five at undergraduate level and two at postgraduate level-are offered by the Department of Management which also hosts the New Zealand Centre for SME Research. There are approximately 80 EFTs (equivalent full-time students) in Enterprise Development in the department (covering both the Wellington and Palmerston North campuses). This translates to roughly 80 postgraduate students and 500 undergraduate students.

Victoria University has established a chair in Science and Technology Entrepreneurship, in conjunction with Industrial Research Limited - one of the Crown Research Institutes. As well as a large range of general business oriented courses, the Victoria Management School provides courses at advanced levels that focus on innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership. Their offerings include a course in Maori Business and Entrepreneurship.

WelTec provides a Centre for Smart Product to assist New Zealand companies that design, make and sell innovative products internationally. Working in conjunction with IRL, WelTec staff and students are involved with small to medium enterprises in research and development projects.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR BUSINESSES

A snapshot of some of the opportunities for business to access training in entrepreneurship and innovation is given below.

In 2008, Grow Wellington established Activate, a new pre-incubation programme at Creative HQ. Though in its infancy, some training is now provided through Activate. The courses build skills and develop a roadmap for assessing a new venture and building a quality business plan to achieve success. One Activate pilot programme with 8 companies participating, followed by three further programmes in Hutt City, Wellington City and Porirua City with 22 companies in total participating, were completed in 2008.

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise provides workshops, seminars and courses aimed at transferring skills and knowledge in a range of areas of business management including becoming investment ready to owners and managers of businesses with the potential to grow. In 2008, for example, they provided 283 training events in the Greater Wellington region (exc Kapiti) and a further 48 in the Kapiti /Horowhenua area. Twenty-six of these events were focused on start-up businesses. The number of businesses attending such training over the last three years is indicated in Table 7.5.

TABLE 7.5: NUMBER OF BUSINESSES IN THE WELLINGTON REGION ATTENDING ENTERPRISE TRAINING COURSES.

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES ATTENDING TRAINING FROM EACH DISTRICT	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
Carterton district	20	17	26
Kapiti Coast district	193	147	139
Lower Hutt city	222	192	224
Masterton district	66	54	73
Porirua city	152	136	136
South Wairarapa district	17	28	34
Upper Hutt city	124	140	128
Wellington city	636	482	527
Total	**1430**	**1196**	**1287**

The Institute of Directors also runs training programmes. While the courses are not specifically focused on entrepreneurial skills, the governance training provided generally considers growth as an aspect of governance. Two courses in 2007 addressed high growth businesses with a high 'value add' component. The Institute has indicated that their provision over the last four years has been as follows:

TABLE 7.6: NUMBER OF COURSES OFFERED BY THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS

	COURSES	PEOPLE	ORGANISATIONS
2005	17	279	235
2006	17	274	214
2007	14	243	201
2008	13	238	207

NZIM and the Employers' and Manufacturers' Association (EMA) both provide business training. In 2008, NZIM ran 107 courses for 11,035 people and conducted 282 training days for in-company programmes. EMA, in 2008, provided 332 public and in-house training programmes.

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

INDICATORS

NUMBER OF NEW BUSINESS INCUBATES

There are three types of regional economic development strategies: business attraction; business retention; and new business creation. Business incubation falls into the third category. It is an organised or concerted approach to help the formation and development of new companies in an accelerated fashion. There is only one fully operating business incubator in the Wellington region – Creative HQ. The report outlines the level of Creative HQ's operations.

PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL COMPANIES IN BUSINESS COMPETITIONS

The visibility of Wellington region businesses among entrants, nominees and award winners for business competitions helps provide a picture of some of the innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. The competitions promote the development and commercialisation of innovative ideas and start-up businesses, and recognise growth and entrepreneurship. We looked at the Cable Car Challenge and the Gold Awards, both competitions within the Wellington region. We also looked at three national competitions, Deloitte's Unlimited Fast 50, the Export Awards and the Sustainability Awards.

NEW PATENT APPLICATIONS

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) grants patents for exclusive right to commercialise new inventions. Data collected by IPONZ can be broken down regionally and by area to give an indication of the rate of new inventions that may deliver economic benefit at some time.

WHAT WE FOUND

After its fifth year of operation, Creative HQ had 11 graduate companies, with annual revenues for 2007/08 that grew by 38% compared to the previous year. Their revenues now exceed $10m per annum, with more than 40% of these revenues export based.

At the close of the financial year 2007/08, Creative HQ had 12 incubates across the IT, media, publishing, fast moving consumer goods and sustainability sectors. A further 12 companies were assisted during the year but not in a comprehensive incubation programme. Almost all of the incubatees are young people under 30 years of age, and many are in the creative/design area.

Recent research carried out on behalf of Creative HQ indicates that there is potential for further growth, with the Wairarapa having the potential of 5 start-ups per annum and 10 small growth companies which could be nurtured. Creative HQ's research suggests that 20-30 companies a year meeting incubation requirements could reasonably be anticipated.

BUSINESS COMPETITIONS

The Cable Car Challenge promotes the development and commercialisation of innovative ideas in start-up and early stage businesses or significant business development for an existing business. Businesses and individuals in the Wellington region are eligible to enter.

In 2007, 360 entrepreneurs or small companies entered the Challenge. Of these, 260 were considered to have some potential for incubation and support. The entrants included ICT and biotech companies (33%), product design, including industrial and fashion (40%) and services (25%).

In 2008, 172 diverse entries were received and ranged from the utilisation of technologies such as GPS and mobile internet through to more traditional businesses such as clothing manufacture and beverages. The entries were considered to be of higher quality in 2008 than in 2007, though there were fewer entries.

The Wellington Region Gold Awards competition was held for the tenth year in 2008. Some of the categories for the awards and the 2008 winners are listed below:

- Creative Gold for the film, media and creative content industries (Flight of the Conchords)
- Vibrant Gold for tourism (NewDowse)
- Cyber Gold, recognizing innovation, leadership and sustained growth in the information and communications sector (4RF)
- Discovering Gold focusing on technological and scientific and innovative research and development projects and products (Kradal Flooring by ACMA Industries)
- Global Gold for exporters of products and services (Wedgelock)
- Emerging Gold for enterprises with fewer than 10 employees who are performing beyond their size(Plan HQ)
- Supporting Gold for infrastructure and professional services (Kiwi Bank)

The competition generally attracts 200 nominations, of which approximately 35 proceed to final judging. The organisers note that the calibre of entrants has been continually rising.

The Deloitte Unlimited Fast 50 is a national business growth competition that ranks companies that enter the competition on their percentage growth in revenue. There are 8 categories of awards with regional winners for each category and a national category winner. In 2008, the new entrant award and retail or consumer product award was won by Watson and Son, a Masterton company producing Manuka honey and healthcare honey products. Watson & Son was also rated first overall in terms of growth. Two Wellington companies ranked in 2008 have also been ranked in previous years, Kiwi Bank three times and Trilogy Natural Skincare, twice. Four other companies in the region also ranked in the top 50 in 2008 as indicated below:

TABLE 7.7: FAST 50: WELLINGTON REGIONAL BUSINESS IN DELOITTE'S FAST 50

RANK	COMPANY NAME	REVENUE GROWTH	EXPORT SALES (AS % OF ALL SALES)	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	DESCRIPTION
1	Watson & Son	5783.7	59	60	Manuka honey and healthcare honey products
19	Futrix	299.07	91	16	Business intelligence software development
35	Mojo Coffee Cartel	175.66	-	90	Wholesale coffee import/roasting, café owner
39	Kiwibank	164.03	-	809	Banking services
44	Trilogy Natural Skincare	156.28	45	15	Natural skin and hair care products manufacture
45	East Day Spa	155.72	-	21	Luxury spa
48	Peoples Coffee	152.2	-	12	Fairtrade and organic coffee roastery and cafes

The National Sustainable Business Network provides an award to those businesses that are actively integrating principles of sustainability into their daily business operations. The 2008 NZI Sustainable Business of the Year Award went to Paraoa Bakehouse, located on the Kapiti Coast who also won the top prize in the Trailblazer (Small and Medium Business) category. Paraoa Bakehouse produces a range of breads including gluten-free and wheat-free varieties that are sold throughout New Zealand.

In November 2007, a Wellington company won one of the seven categories of the New Zealand Export Awards. "phil&teds Most Excellent Buggy Company Ltd" won the Creative Exporter of the Year award. The company was judged to have world-beating designs combined with quality and a quirky attitude. Their exports of innovative baby goods grew by 82% to over $30 million in 2006.

NEW PATENT APPLICATIONS

Data provided by IPONZ indicates that over the last three years, between 7.5 and 8.3% of new patent applications came from the Wellington region, less than the region's proportion of total population (11%).

TABLE 7.8: NEW PATENT APPLICATIONS

	2007/2008	2006/2007	2005/2006
NZ Total	1616	1709	1544
Regional total as percentage of NZ total	7.5	8.2	8.3
Regional total	122	140	129
Kapiti	9	9	5
Lower Hutt	27	46	53
Porirua	0	2	0
Upper Hutt	4	9	0
Wairarapa	5	6	2
Wellington	77	68	69

Most applications came from Lower Hutt and Wellington City with Lower Hutt having a higher rate of application per head of population.

INVESTMENT

INDICATORS

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

R&D expenditure is one type of investment relevant to Entrepreneurship and Innovation. There is little data available on a regional basis. The Ministry of Research, Science and Technology has reported on R&D expenditure, but that analysis is predominantly by sector and by type of research.

Statistics New Zealand carries out biennial surveys of R&D expenditure but the questionnaire does not ask for information about regional location. In 2007, Statistics New Zealand generated a methodology to produce a regional breakdown of R&D expenditure for the business, government and higher education sectors. The results of using the methodology were published. The data used was from the biennial R&D survey conducted in 2002. Data from more recent R&D surveys has not been similarly treated. Because this is the only regional data available, it is presented here, despite the age of the base data.

INVESTMENT SUPPORT AND ACTUAL INVESTMENT

This report looks at the number and level of Venture Capital (VC) and Private Equity (PE) Funds invested in the region as reported by the NZVCA, and private financing deals in the Wellington region over the period 2006-08 as reported by the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund (NZVIF). The (NZVIF) was set up by government in 2002 to help build the venture capital market in New Zealand. It is a private equity fund of funds investor that manages fund of funds investments as well as direct co-investments.

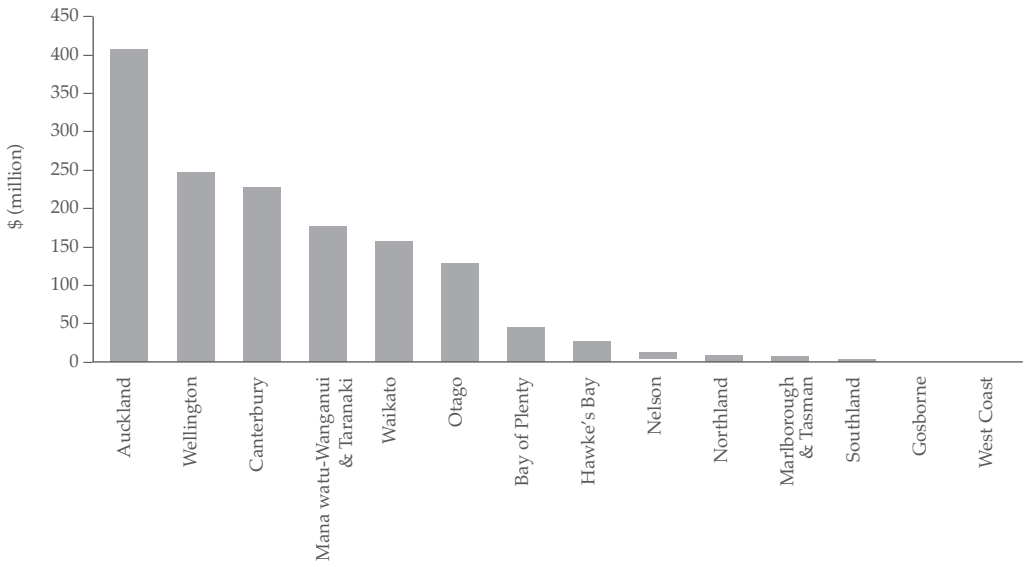
The report also describes Angel HQ, an angel investment network set up by Grow Wellington. Angel investment is investment in small, early stage enterprises by high net worth individuals, either sharing investment risk through investment clubs, or investing personally. It is not always obvious when "angels" invest personally. However, angels may belong to investment networks where information is more likely to be available about their activities. Angels tend also to provide business skills, connections and other forms of assistance to the enterprises in which they invest.

We also look at the use in the Wellington region of the Escalator service funded by Trade and Enterprise. Escalator provides entrepreneurs with independent support when seeking, preparing for and negotiating deals with Angel Investors, VCs and other investors for early stage investment from $100K to $5 millon.

WHAT WE FOUND

The breakdown of data from the 2002 R&D Survey showed that there is regional variation of R&D being conducted in New Zealand in business, government and higher education sectors. Gross expenditure on research and development (GERD) is indicated in the graph (Graph 7.2) below.

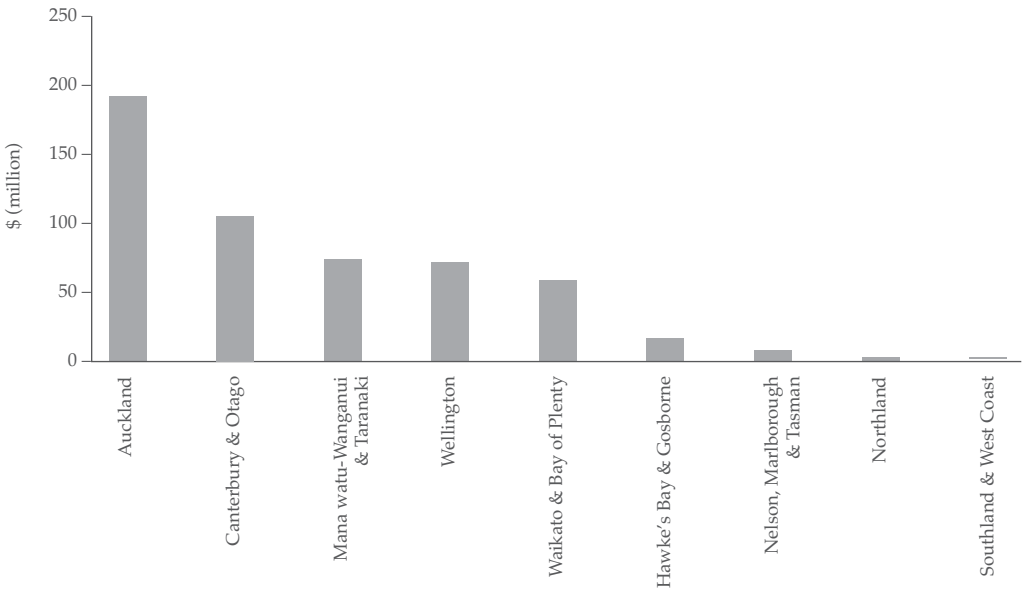
GRAPH 7.2: REGIONAL INVESTMENT IN R&D



The Wellington Region had the second highest expenditure in the country at an estimated $242.7 million, or 17% of the total $1,416.5 million expended. When GERD is calculated by region as expenditure per 100 working age (age 15-64) individuals, the Wellington region had the third highest expenditure after Otago and Manawatu-Wanganui / Taranaki.

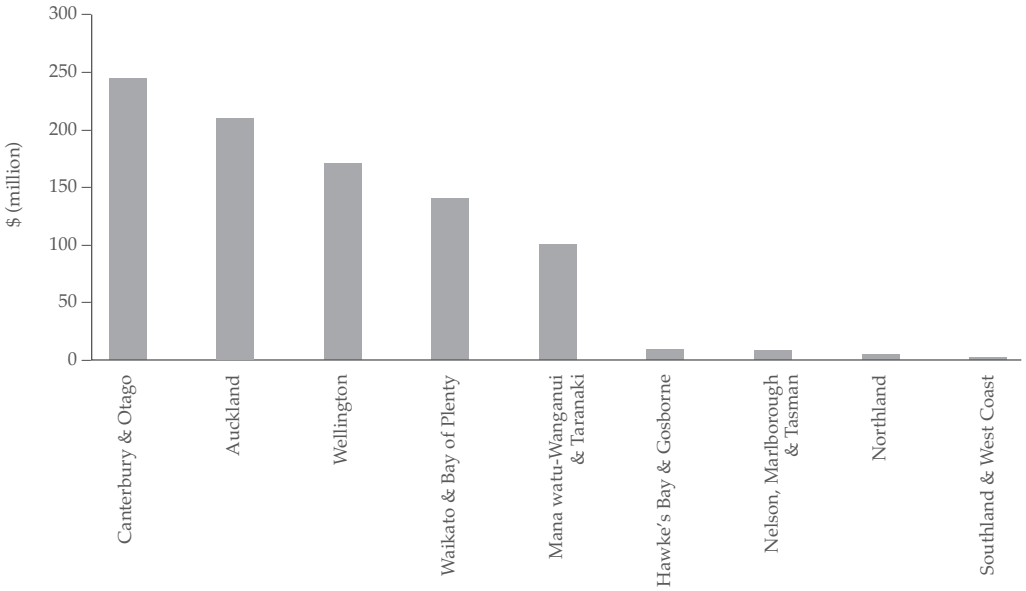
BERD (the total R&D expenditure for the business sector) in 2002 was estimated to be $524.3 million. The Wellington region ranked fourth in the country for R&D expenditure in the business sector, at an estimated $71.6 million, or 14% of the total. (see Graph 7.3)

GRAPH 7.3: R&D EXPENDITURE IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR



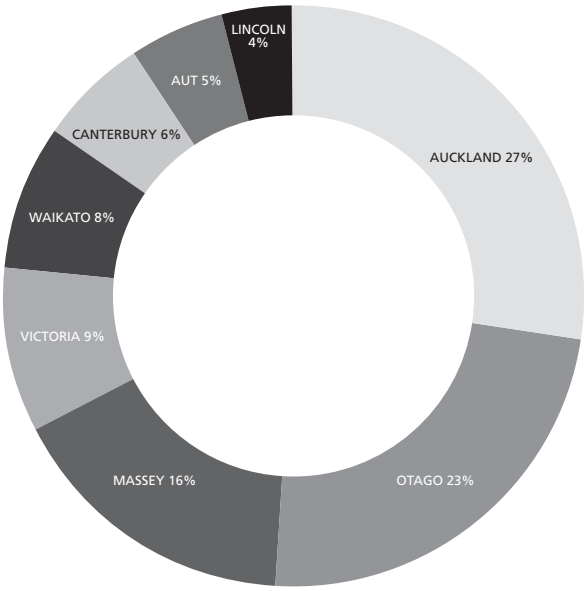
Data for the government and higher education sectors were merged together for confidentiality reasons. The total R&D expenditure for the government and higher education sectors in 2002 was estimated to be $892.2 million. The Wellington region ranked third in the country for government and higher education R&D, at an estimated $171.1 million, or 19% of the total. (see Graph 7.4)

GRAPH 7.4: GOVERNMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENDITURE ON R&D



The Ministry of Research, Science and Technology has reported on R&D expenditure over the ten years 1994-2004 in their publication "A decade in review". The reported expenditure in universities can be interpreted on a regional basis. MoRST's findings for universities are illustrated in Graph 7.5 below.

GRAPH 7.5: UNIVERSITY EXPENDITURE ON R&D



All the universities increased their R&D expenditure by significant amounts during the decade. Victoria had the largest percentage increase in R&D expenditure over the period, increasing its expenditure by 270%. While Auckland and Otago contributed the most significantly to the overall growth in R&D expenditure at about 50% of the total growth, Massey and Victoria contributed a further 25% of the growth.

INVESTMENT BY ANGELS, VENTURE FUNDS, PRIVATE EQUITY FUNDS

Angel HQ, the investment group set up by Grow Wellington, was established in January 2008 modelled on Ice Angels, an investment network set up in Auckland in 2003 which has channeled more than $10 million from 84 angel investors through 18 funding rounds.

Comparatively, Angel HQ is in the early stages of development. It has 22 registered angels and is a member of the Angel Association of New Zealand. Over 70 ventures have been assessed, including several from outside the Wellington region. Grow Wellington reported in its Annual Report 2007/08, that in the first six months of operation, it completed its first deal, with three angels supporting Trinity Bioactives, a biotechnology company developing tests for medical diagnostic services and products. Angel HQ has also invested in Nexx, an on-line social lending business. Grow Wellington has reported that the Wellington region angels have opportunities for investment in software, tourism, food and beverage, infrastructure support and manufacturing sectors.

NZVIF has advised that an overall trend is appearing which shows angels are backing existing businesses rather than investing in new companies.

NZVIF has reported that the number of new private deals being recorded reflects the drop-off in economic activity globally. The third quarter of 2008 saw just four deals done in New Zealand, as opposed to 11 in the corresponding period last year. In 2006, two of the 28 deals in the country were in the Wellington region - both were Seed investments. In 2007, 5 of the 45 deals were in the Wellington region - all were Seed investments. Of 19 investments in 2008, only one has been in the Wellington region – this was a start-up. Further information is provided in Table 7.9.

TABLE 7.9: PRIVATE FINANCING DEALS IN THE WELLINGTON REGION (2006-2008)

DATE	NAME OF COMPANY	SECTOR	ROUND	STAGE	RANGE	SYNDICATE/ADVISOR
Mar 06	Flight Technology Limited	Capital Goods	3	Seed	$250-500k	Renouf Corporation, Stephen Underwood
Nov 06	Plan HQ	Software Services	1	Seed	$250-500k	Rod Drury
Jan 07	Ponoko	Software Services	1	Seed	$250-500k	Private Investors
Mar 07	Ponoko	Software Services	2	Seed	$0-250k	Private Investors
Sept 07	Ponoko	Software Services	3	Seed	$250-500k	Private Investors
Oct 07	Mesoma	Healthcare Equipment & Services	1	Seed	$0-250k	Sparkbox, SCIF
Dec 07	Valuecruncher	Software Services	1	Seed	$0-250k	Private Investors
Jan 08	Mesoma	Healthcare Equipment & Services	2	Start Up	$0-250k	Sparkbox, SCIF

SOURCE NZVIF

NZVCA has advised that throughout New Zealand, there are currently eight registered Venture Capital fund managers and 21 Private Equity fund managers – two of each in the Wellington region. The focus and activities of the Wellington-based fund managers are as follows:

TABLE 7.10: FOCUS AND ACTIVITIES OF WELLINGTON BASED FUND MANAGERS

VENTURE CAPITAL	PRIVATE EQUITY
No 8 Ventures –	AMP Capital Investors New Zealand Limited
$5M currently available for investment	$101 M available for investment
Seed, Start-Ups	Number of investments made in the last 12& 24 months: 12
Preference: ICT, biotech, other technology companies	
Number of investments made in the last 12& 24 months: 2 & 3	
Endeavour Capital	Pencarrow Private Equity Limited
$10M currently available for investment	$35M currently available for investment
Seed, Start-Ups	Number of investments made in the last 12 & 24 months: 5
Any Company	
Number of investments made in the last 12 & 24 months: 9	

The NZVCA has provided the following snapshot of investment in the Wellington region in 2006 and 2007.

INVESTMENT IN THE WELLINGTON REGION BY PRIVATE EQUITY AND VENTURE CAPITAL

2006 AMOUNT		DEALS
Investor type		
Venture Capital	17,706,000	5
Private Equity	12,000,000	1
Total	**29,706,00**	**6**
Stage		
Seed & Start up	806,000	2
Early stage	16,900,000	3
Turnaround	12,000,000	1
Total	**29,706,000**	**6**
Sector		
Manufactoring	12,900,000	2
Information Tech / Software	16,300,000	3
Media / Communications	506,000	1
Total	**29,706,000**	**6**

2007 AMOUNT		DEALS
Investor type		
Venture Capital	3,081,481	3
Private Equity	0	0
Total	**3,081,481**	**3**
Stage		
Seed & Start up		
Early stage	3,081,481	3
Total	**3,081,481**	**3**
Sector		
Health / Biosciences	2,981,481	2
Media / Communications	100,000	1
Total	**3,081,481**	**3**

USE OF THE ESCALATOR PROGRAMME

The following table (Table 7.11) provides a picture of the type of companies approaching Escalator for support in finding investors for their enterprises.

Escalator has indicated that activity in the Wellington region for the period Sept 06- Sept 08 represented 13.5% of Escalator's total activities.

Of those organisations in the region approaching Escalator during 2005-2006, $5 million was raised for three organisations. During 2006-2007, six organisations in the region were successful in securing deals totalling $850,000.

TABLE 7.11: USE OF THE ESCALATOR PROGRAMME BY BUSINESSES IN THE WELLINGTON REGION

	2006	2007	2008
# businesses approaching Escalator	19	56	29
Investment requests	$200,000 - $6 million	$40,000 - $4 million	$300,000 - $4 million
# businesses passed for further evaluation	13	40	21
• seed	3	8	1
• start-up	4	20	4
• early expansion	5	12	3
• expansion	1	0	11
Industries represented	• Information, communications and technology • Creative and services • Manufacturing • Food and beverages	• Information, communications and technology • Creative and services • Food and beverages	• Information, communications and technology • Creative and services • Manufacturing

What does all this tell us?

The number of businesses in the Wellington region has continued to grow in line with New Zealand's overall growth though Wellington's proportion of the nation's FTE count has reduced slightly. The size of business (by FTE count) in the region generally reflects the size of businesses nationally, with a slightly higher proportion of businesses employing more than 49 FTEs. The region's businesses are, not surprisingly, concerned at the global economic outlook, and while business confidence for the region is relatively buoyant, it is too early to tell what the outfall of the global economy might be.

The region is rich in talent, considering the higher than average qualifications of the workforce and the fact that higher than average proportions of the workforce are employed in research and other "creative classes". Regional R&D is also high when compared with other regions, taken as a whole. On the other hand, because a proportion of that talent is nationally focused in the work they do, the region may not directly reap the benefits of their innovation. And while total regional R&D is high, it is bolstered by government and higher education expenditure. Regional R&D in the business sector does not rate so highly.

Nevertheless, there are a considerable number of new and developing enterprises which are demonstrating entrepreneurship and innovation in developing products and services and research suggests that there is further capacity in the region that would benefit from business support and investment.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington recognises that the support of existing businesses and the nurturing of new businesses who have the capacity and capability to innovate are important to the growth of the regional economy and to the vibrancy of the region.

Greater Wellington, in its *Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009 - 19,* has provided for the following:

- Continue to support the Wellington Regional Strategy and contribute to key projects such as the Wellington Regional Broadband Plan, which will support innovation in business
- Continue to support and fund Grow Wellington, recognising in particular their role in support of emerging businesses.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

High quality, secure infrastructure and services will meet our current needs, and support the sustainable growth of the region in the future.

Why are Essential Services important?

There are some services which are the foundations of modern society, and their availability and reliability is critical to the whole community. Many of these services are also determinants of health, quality of life, the ability of the region to serve effectively an increasing population and the economic viability of the region.

What and who influences this outcome?

This outcome is influenced by the suppliers of essential services, such as Greater Wellington, city and district councils, public and private landlords, and commercial suppliers of electricity, gas and telecommunication services. Central government policy agencies also play a part as do regulatory bodies. The economy affects the affordability of some services.

What have we focused on?

Three focus areas have been selected for describing and reflecting on this outcome:

- Services
- Housing
- "Three waters"
  - drinking water quality and supply
  - sewerage disposal
  - stormwater disposal

Twelve indicators have been identified across the three focus areas to give a collective picture of the current delivery of services and, for some services, of planning for future needs.

INDICATORS FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

SERVICES	HOUSING	THREE WATERS – DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND STORMWATER DISPOSAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY
• Reliability of electricity supply • Number of homes that could potentially be served by power generated in the region from renewable resources • Availability of recycling	• Housing affordability: Rates of home ownership and affordability of ownership • Housing Affordability in the rental sector • Household crowding • Household need	• Level of compliance with drinking water standards for New Zealand • Security of water supply systems • Per capita gross water consumption **Sewerage** • Number of sewage pollution incidents **Stormwater** • Number of households flooded (due to a failure of or lack of capacity in the stormwater systems)

Further information is available from service providers, including additional indicators and data. Data is not always available at a regional level.

In some countries there is a governing body to oversee the reliability and availability of all essential services but no such body exists in New Zealand. In some instances there are no agreed or legislated service delivery levels or standards. Where they do exist, they are identified in this report.

SOURCES

Annual report 2007/08, various local authorities in the Wellington region

Annual Report 2006/07 – Electricity Commission

Census 2006, Statistics New Zealand

Energy Data File, Ministry for Economic Development, 2008

Home Affordability Reports, Massey University Property Unit, Quarterly Surveys of December 2006, August 2007, December 2007, March 2008, December 2008

Waiting lists by Neighbourhood Unit, January 2009, Housing New Zealand, www.hnzc.co.nz

New Zealand Energy Strategy, Ministry for Economic Development, 2008

Renewable Energy Assessment for the Greater Wellington Region, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), August 2006

The Social Report 2008, Ministry of Social Development 2008

Threshold Compliance Reports, 2008, Vector Ltd

Threshold Compliance Reports, 2008, Powerco

Threshold Compliance Reports, 2008, Electra Ltd

SERVICES

INDICATORS

RELIABILITY OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The Commerce Act 1986 requires electricity distribution businesses to report on three reliability indicators annually. These are:

- SAIDI – which measures the average period a customer is without service over a year;
- SAIFI – which measures average system interruption frequency or the average number of interruptions a customer will experience per year ; and
- CAIDI – which measures the average restoration period when an outage occurs.

Companies are required to show that there is no material deterioration of supply in their distribution area. To show this, their total SAIDI and total SAIFI must be less than or equal to the average for the five years between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2004.

The average SAIDI for New Zealand electricity businesses is around 150 minutes. Most distributors are planning to improve reliability of supply and the New Zealand average in 2012 is expected to be about 112 minutes.

NUMBER OF HOMES THAT COULD POTENTIALLY BE SERVED BY POWER GENERATED IN THE REGION FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES

2006 Census showed 169,000 occupied dwellings in the region. Increasing the number of homes that use energy generated from renewable sources in the region will increase the resilience of the region simply because we will be less reliant on finite sources. Power companies express their generating capacity from renewable sources as "the number of average houses that could potentially be served".

In 2006, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) provided a renewable energy assessment for the Wellington region. This report is drawn on for information about the regional potential for this type of electricity generation.

The New Zealand Energy Strategy has set a target of 90% of electricity being generated from renewable resources by 2025.

AVAILABILITY OF RECYCLING

Each of the Territorial Local Authorities in the region undertakes recycling activities and reports on them through their Annual Reports.

WHAT WE FOUND

RELIABILITY OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Three distribution businesses reported on their performance in 2008 in the Wellington region - Powerco (Wairarapa), Electra (Kapiti), and Vector[11] (Wellington). Each company has reported their performance differently.

Vector reports its reliability as follows:

TABLE 8.1: SAIDI, SAIFI AND CAIDI DATA FOR VECTOR'S ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN THE WELLINGTON AREA

REGULATION YEAR	SAIDI – AVERAGE PERIOD CUSTOMER WITHOUT ELECTRICITY PER YEAR (MINS)	SAIFI- AVERAGE NUMBER OF SYSTEM INTERRUPTIONS PER YEAR	CAIDI – AVERAGE RESTORATION PERIOD WHEN AN OUTAGE OCCURS (MINS)
1998/99	20.69	0.31	66.74
1999/00	16.28	0.21	77.52
2000/01	16.50	0.23	71.74
2001/02	12.86	0.23	55.90
2002/03	15.72	0.23	68.35
2003/04	40.20	0.34	118.24
2004/05	21.26	0.21	101.24
2005/06	16.42	0.26	63.15
2006/07	18.02	0.33	54.61
2007/08	16.33	0.27	60.48

NOTES

The total number of customers is used for these calculations – there is some variation with the number of regulated customers	SAIDI has been calculated using SumOfEvent_CustMins and dividing by the number of customers	SAIFI has been calculated using SumOfEvent_CustAffec and diving by the number of customers	CAIDI is SAIDI/SAIFI

SOURCE Vector, Threshold Compliance Statement for the period ending 31 March 2008

Electra distributes electricity in the Kapiti and Horowhenua regions and its reporting does not disaggregate figures to a regional level. Electra's SAIDI target (calculated by the average of the years 1999-2003) is 78.32. This has been exceeded in 3 of the last 5 years. In both 2004 and 2008, the company's performance was affected by storm events and/or civil defence requirements and in 2008 by the requirements of the Energy Safety Service during an accident investigation. In 2007, the targets were also exceeded slightly; Electra saw this as "the law of averages" in operation and noted that that its performance in 2007 should be considered in the context of an overall downward trend.

[11] Vector has subsequently sold its distribution business to Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited and Hong Kong Electric Holdings Limited.

Powerco provides data that relates specifically to its operations in the Wairarapa (see Graphs 8.1 and 8.2).

TABLE 8.1: POWERCO SAIDI

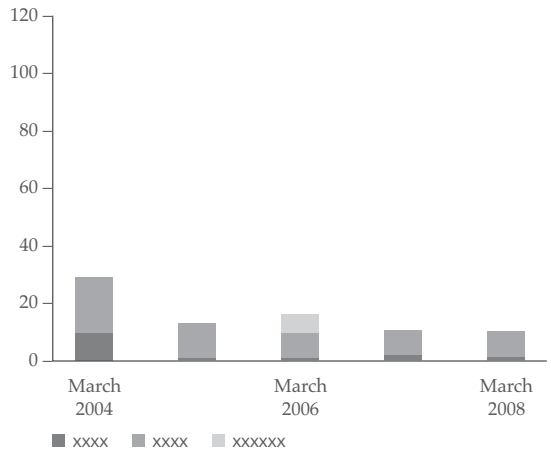
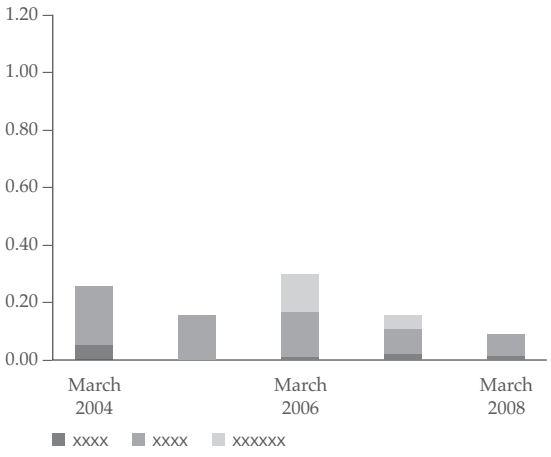


TABLE 8.2 POWERCO SAIFI



SOURCE Delivering reliability, 2008 Reliability Report, Powerco

Powerco's SAIDI (average number of minutes per annum that the customer is without electricity) has decreased over time, and its SAIFI (the average number of times per annum that a consumer is without electricity) has likewise decreased.

NUMBER OF HOMES THAT COULD POTENTIALLY BE SERVED BY POWER GENERATED IN THE REGION FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Currently, very little electricity is generated in the Wellington region from renewable sources – enough to supply 4280 homes. (Power companies use the number of homes that could potentially be supplied as a measure of capacity.) Additional planned wind farm developments would supply a further 160,000 homes.

The region currently has:

- one wind farm (Hau Nui I&II, 8.65 MW) in the Wairarapa, owned by Genesis Power
- one single turbine : Brooklyn, 0.225 MW, owned by Meridian Energy

At least three further wind farms are planned or under construction in the region. These are:

- Makara Hills (Project West Wind), Meridian Energy, under construction
- Mill Creek (Ohariu Valley), Meridian Energy
- Long Gully (West Karori) Mighty River Power

Greater Wellington is also considering two wind farm developments on its own land.

In 2007, Vector began trials of micro wind turbines in urban sites around Wellington, each with a rated capacity of 1.5 KW. In 2008, Neptune Energy was granted resource consent for the installation of a 1 MW marine turbine off Wellington's south coast.

Across New Zealand there is some potential to increase the sources of renewable energy. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) has produced a series of reports identifying regional potential. For the Wellington Region, EECA identified the following renewable potential:

- approximately 500-700 MW of wind capacity, up from the present 9 MW, depending on the degree of acceptance of adverse effects
- wave energy in the order of 1,000MW, assuming that technologies become economic over the next ten years
- around 30 million litres of ethanol per year for transport fuel from grain crops currently grown in the region
- more than 20 million litres per year of ethanol or 90 GWh/year of electrical energy from woody biomass derived from low-grade forestry
- further hydro potential of about 38 MW, in mini and small scale projects in areas outside the Department of Conservation land and native forest areas
- significant potential for solar thermal hot water systems, considerably less for solar photovoltaic energy.

The New Zealand Energy Strategy has set a target of 90% of electricity being generated from renewables sources by 2025 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, approximately 30 % of energy, and 70% of electricity is produced in New Zealand using renewable resources (eg hydro, geothermal, solar, biomass and wind power.)

RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

All territorial authorities have a waste minimisation policy and are committed to delivering services to support this strategy. Seven of the eight territorial authorities provide a weekly kerbside recycling service for residents (Upper Hutt City in urban areas only). The South Wairarapa District Council provides recycling stations across the district.

Recycling volumes have increased across the region over the last decade. However, the amount of waste going to landfills has not decreased by the same amount. See also *"Healthy Environment – Waste and Pollution"*.

HOUSING

INDICATORS

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY: RATES OF HOME OWNERSHIP AND AFFORDABILITY OF OWNERSHIP

Census 2006 is able to provide data about the rate of home ownership in each Territorial Authority area.

Massey University has developed the Housing Affordability Index to measure home ownership affordability. By comparing the average weekly earnings with the median dwelling price and mortgage interest rates, they assess the ability of people to purchase a house and meet subsequent mortgage payments.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN THE RENTAL SECTOR

The Ministry of Social Development considers that households spending more than 30% of their disposable income on housing face affordability problems (2008 Social Report). One measure of housing affordability is the proportion of households and the proportion of people within households who fall into this category.

Census 2006 provides regional data about the number of moderate income households (between 80 and 120% Gross Annual Median Income paying more than 30% of income on rent).

HOUSEHOLD CROWDING

The importance of household crowding is illustrated by the following excerpt from the Social Report 2008: - "Household space adequate to the needs and desires of a family is a core component of quality of life. National and international studies show an association between the prevalence of certain infectious diseases and crowding, between crowding and poor educational attainment, and between crowding and psychological distress."

Census 2006, as with previous census events, gathered data about the number of people in a household and the number of rooms in the dwelling. The Ministry of Social Development has adopted the Canadian Crowding Index as the standard that defines crowding. In short, the Index states that there should be no more than two persons per bedroom and indicates a number of circumstances in which two persons sharing a bedroom should be regarded as crowding.

HOUSING NEED

Housing New Zealand is the state provider of rental housing. It holds data about waiting lists for its housing in each of its Neighbourhood Unit areas. Households on its waiting lists are assessed as having severe and persistent housing need (A priority), significant and persistent housing need (B priority), moderate housing need (C priority) and low level housing need (D priority). The assessments are made on the basis of a number of factors including: the condition of and facilities available in the applicants' current dwelling; the ability of their current dwelling to meet their social, medical and personal needs; and their ability to gain access to a suitable home because of a lack of skills or discrimination of financial means. This data gives some indication of housing need in the region.

WHAT WE FOUND

RATES OF HOME OWNERSHIP AND AFFORDABILITY OF HOME OWNERSHIP

Massey University Home Affordabilty Reports since December 2006 have shown housing affordability in the Wellington region to be consistently among the 6 highest costs regions (out of 12) for home ownership. However, the region has not ranked in the top three at any time - these ranks have been fairly consistently held by Central Otago Lakes, Nelson and Auckland.

Until early 2008, housing affordability nationally continued to decline, as did affordability in the Wellington region.

In November 2006, regional affordability was 15% lower than the previous year. Affordability declined a further 11.2% in the next year to November 2007. Data at November 2008, shows that affordability in the region improved by 7.4% in the year. However, the current economic conditions mean that affordability trends are likely to change substantially.

Home ownership rates are shown in Table 8.2. The region as a whole has had slightly lower than the New Zealand home ownership rate over two census periods. Over the two census periods, rates of home ownership have remained reasonably constant across the region. Over a longer period, however (1986-2006), rates have dropped in Kapiti Coast and Wellington City by 10.44% and 7.05% respectively.

TABLE 8.2: PERCENTAGE OF OWNER-OCCUPIER HOUSEHOLDS

AREA	2001	2006
Carterton district	78.57%	76.33%
Kapiti Coast district	77.14%	75.68%
Lower Hutt city	66.84%	67.37%
Masterton district	70.33%	70.69%
Porirua city	62.66%	62.99%
South Wairarapa district	74.57%	73.05%
Upper Hutt city	73.52%	73.66%
Wellington city	61.74%	60.47%
Region as a whole	66.70%	66.11%
New Zealand	67.82%	66.86%

SOURCE Department of Statistics

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN THE RENTAL SECTOR

The level of difficulty experienced with the affordability of rental housing for moderate income households can be seen in Table 8.3.

TABLE 8.3: PERCENTAGE OF MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS PAYING MORE THAN 30% OF INCOME IN RENTAL HOUSING COSTS

AREA	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	PERCENTAGE OF RENTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Total New Zealand	4,194	1.11
Wellington region	606	1.29
Kapiti Coast district	108	3.23
Porirua city	18	0.39
Upper Hutt city	9	0.29
Lower Hutt city	39	0.41
Wellington city	165	0.71
Masterton district	12	0.61
Carterton district	0	0
South Wairarapa district	0	0

SOURCE Department of Statistics

HOUSEHOLD CROWDING

In the Wellington region in 2006, over 38,000 or 9.1% people lived in crowded housing compared with 10% of the New Zealand population as a whole. This proportion was less than it was in 2001 but higher in absolute numbers. Both these census periods showed improvements on 1986-1996 data. The proportion of people living in crowded housing in New Zealand as a whole has also fallen since 1986.

TABLE 8.4: HOUSEHOLD CROWDING

YEAR	WELLINGTON REGION (#)	WELLINGTON REGION (%)	NEW ZEALAND (%)
1986	44,967	12.1	13
1991	43,152	11.3	
1996	39,529	10.1	
2001	37,017	9.3	
2006	38,424	9.1	10

SOURCE Statistics New Zealand

Though the region overall compares favourably with the national averages, there are significant sub regional variations, with 17% of people in Porirua City living in crowded housing in 2006 (amongst the second highest in the country). The Wellington region as a whole in 2006 had the seventh highest regional ranking for household overcrowding.

HOUSING NEED

Housing New Zealand has rental units in the Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt, Porirua, and Wellington city areas of the Wellington region. The data in Table 8.5 provides a picture as at January 2009 of the need for state housing in the region.

TABLE 8.5: HOUSING NEW ZEALAND WAITING LISTS BY AREA AT JANUARY 2009

AREA	NUMBER OF RENTAL UNITS	A PRIORITY	B PRIORITY	C PRIORITY	D PRIORITY
Hutt North	1,997	3	45	31	12
Hutt South	2,154	1	34	39	23
Porirua	2,984	0	81	49	26
Wellington	1,636	3	111	129	78

SOURCE http://www.hnzc.co.nz

THREE WATERS

INDICATORS

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR NEW ZEALAND

The Ministry of Health sets standards for the quality of drinking water (The Drinking Water Standards for NZ 2005 (revised 2008)) and monitors compliance.

ADEQUACY OF WATER SUPPLY TO MEET CURRENT AND PROJECTED FUTURE DEMANDS

Water is an essential for life and is becoming an increasingly valued commodity, given concerns about climate change and the impacts of population growth. There are many competing demands for water. The availabity of plentiful water supplies for agriculture and many other businesses is an important economic driver.

Greater Wellington supplies potable water to the four cities of Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt, Porirua and Wellington. It has a security of supply target that supply will meet a "one in 50 year drought" standard, or a 2% probability of shortfall. Kapiti Coast District Council has a similar security of supply standard.

PER CAPITA GROSS WATER CONSUMPTION

In the Wellington region, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa and Kapiti Coast district councils maintain data bases which track total and per capita consumption. Efforts are being made in all areas to reduce the per capita water consumption to sustainable levels.

SEWAGE DISCHARGES

The number of sewage pollution incidents provides a measure of the effectiveness of the region's sewerage systems. The discharges cause serious damage to the environment and are a threat to public health. Greater Wellington must be notified of such discharges and its database provides information about the frequency of such incidents. Illegal sewage and sediment discharges cause pollution in streams etc.

STORMWATER

The community expects to be served by a reliable infrastructure system and to have their homes protected from flooding. The stormwater network protects human health, property, public safety and well-being. The collection and disposal of stormwater is the responsibility of city and district councils in the region. The following shows that operational performance measures tend to vary between councils:

- Wellington City Council operates a 50 year period protection - the statistical frequency a flood could occur with the existing infrastructure system. The Council measures customer satisfaction with response to stormwater incidents.
- Hutt City Council's flood protection standard for residential houses specifies a "total system" whereby, although the level of protection is also a 50 year return period, the piped system only provides for a 2 year event with the remainder being provided by overland flow paths. The city aims that there will fewer than one reticulation incident per km of public stormwater drains.
- Carterton District Council aims to provide and maintain a stormwater system based on a five year minimum return period which minimizes the potential for residential dwelling damage during rainfall events.
- Kapiti Coast District Council responds to minor flood damage and seeks to fund remedial action at a return period of five years or less. The council seeks higher performing infrastructure for new developments and upgrades.
- Porirua City Council measures the number of flooding incidents which affect property (i.e. flooding of a section or habitable property) per year with the intention of reducing the risk. Their target is to have fewer than 80 per year.
- Masterton District Council aims to clear stormwater ponding within two days and for there to be no residual environmental effects.
- South Wairarapa District Council focuses on response times to failures of the stormwater systems.
- Upper Hutt City Council does not have a specific target for flooding but measures resident satisfaction with the stormwater system.

WHAT WE FOUND

WATER SUPPLY

The region is fortunate to have a temperate climate with adequate rainfall to support its needs. However, water supply systems across the region do not all have adequate storage capacity and it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet demand during dry periods in some areas.

FOUR CITIES

Greater Wellington supplies water to the Wellington, Porirua, Upper Hutt and Hutt city councils. About a third of the water to reticulated areas comes from groundwater (aquifer) in the Hutt Valley; the rest of the water supplied to those cities comes from the Hutt, Wainuiomata and Orongorongo rivers.

The water supply to the four cities has continuously met the National Drinking Water Standards for biological, chemical and aesthetic determinands. The treatment stations have all met the Ministry of Health standards, as has the distribution system. The current gradings are as follows: Te Marua (A1), Wainuiomata (A1), Waterloo (B), Gear Island (ungraded) and distribution system (a1).

Currently (December 2008) Greater Wellington's water supply for the four cities in the region is operating to a "one in 25-year drought" standard – a 3.9% probability of shortfall. This is over the 2% target and is due to higher than expected population growth. There are measures planned in the short term to achieve the 2% target.

In the year ending June 2008, residents of the four cities consumed 297 litres per person per day. In the last ten years, the high point of consumption was in 2001, when 434 litres/head/day were consumed. The decrease has been influenced by a number of factors - better leak detection, voluntary water savings arising from a greater general awareness of the need to use water wisely, and a greater number of residential apartments with lower water needs.

Wellington City reduced its water consumption by 2.1% between 2006/07 and 2007/08, while Lower Hutt, Porirua and Upper Hutt increased consumption in the same period by 0.4%, 1.9% and 0.9% respectively.

In 2007/08, 55,642 million litres of water were supplied to the four cities. This is a 0.7% decrease from the total in 2006/07. Greater Wellington measures the volume of water leaving the treatment plant and water arriving at supply points to its city customers. The variations in water metered from supply to source are within the margin of metering error. However, it is clear that there has been loss elsewhere from the system. Proactive work to identify possible leakages through pressure variation monitoring is in place in Wellington City and parts of Lower Hutt.

WAIRARAPA

Water supply in the Wairarapa comes from streams, rivers and aquifers. The three district councils each own and operate their own water supply. Masterton District Council supplies potable water through a reticulated water network service in Masterton and supports a small number of rural water schemes. In the South Wairarapa, there are presently two public water supply systems - Greytown (for Greytown and Featherston) and Martinborough. Carterton District Council has two water treatment plants drawing water from a bore field and the Kaipatangata Stream to provide water to Carterton.

In addition to its town supplies, the Wairarapa has a number of smaller rural water supplies with varying quality of treatment (for example, Pirinoa, Wainuioru and Fernridge.) The local community and the relevant local authority jointly manage rural water supplies, which do not always deliver the high quality water that residents expect.

Storage of water in the Wairarapa is an issue. Currently Masterton has about three days storage capacity and Carterton has about 7 hours storage while Martinborough does not have any storage capacity.

Masterton District Council supplies some 17 million litres per day in winter and up to 27.5 million litres per day in summer in the town area, mainly for consumptive use. Water leakage has been a problem in the area but the Council is trying to address the issue. The Council implements a water conservation programme over summer months to keep water demand in check. Carterton and South Wairarapa district councils are installing water meters to reduce demand in some locations.

Carterton has obtained approval for a central government subsidy to improve storage and treatment of water supply in their area and expects to implement changes over the 2008 - 2010 years.

KAPITI COAST

Kapiti Coast District Council relies on rivers and aquifers for its water supply. The Waikanae River is the principal source of water for the communities of Raumati, Paraparaumu and Waikanae. This supply is supplemented by the Waikanae bore field in times of water shortage. Reliance on a single source supply, low rainfall, and very high per capita usage has resulted in significant supply issues. Otaki and rural areas of the Kapiti Coast rely on groundwater for domestic supply.

The Kapiti Coast district experiences frequent water shortages in summer and there is insufficient storage in the district to cover the summer water shortfall. The Council is actively considering a number of options to increase water supply for the future. Water sourced from aquifers in shortfall situations presents some quality issues in the Kapiti area with water sometimes not meeting standards acceptable to the community.

The average water use in Kapiti per person per day is higher than in the four cities, and is particularly high in the Otaki area at 800 litres per person per day. The Kapiti District Council is committed to a district wide consumption target of 475 litres per day per person and has adopted policies to require water saving devices on all new properties.

SEWAGE DISCHARGES

The majority of sewage pollution incidents are from municipal sewer pipes or sewer mains (57% of all incidents in 2007/08). Surface water, such as streams, is the most common receiving environment for sewage discharges. There has been little variation in the total number of incidents over the last three years, as indicated in Table 8.3 below.

TABLE 8.3: NUMBER OF ILLEGAL SEWAGE DISCHARGE INCIDENTS

RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Coastal Marine Area	9	12	12
Groundwater	1	2	0
Land	3	11	11
Surface Water (streams etc)	20	20	25
Air	0	0	1
Total Incidents	**33**	**45**	**49**

STORMWATER SYSTEMS AND FLOODING

Satisfaction with Wellington City Council's response to stormwater incidents has improved. The Council is to review its stormwater assets to ensure changing demands are met. CBD flood risk is being assessed and mitigation proposals are being considered.

Hutt City Council reported in their Annual report 2007/08 that there were 0.075 incidents per km of public stormwater drains in 2007/08 and 0.12 incidents in 2006/07.

Upper Hutt City Council measures satisfaction with the stormwater system and recognise the need to minimise flood risks through their capital expenditure programmes. They have reported that 87.5% of their residents were satisfied or very satisfied with stormwater disposal.

In Porirua City, the number of flooding incidents which affect property (ie, flooding of a section or habitable property) per year fluctuates significantly (26 in 2005/06, 49 in 2006/07 and 10 in 2007/08), but has been consistently better than their target of having no more than 80 incidents per year.

Kapiti District Council has reported that it has met its service standards, but is continuing to upgrade stormwater infrastructure to meet expected future needs.

Masterton District Council's 2007/08 Annual report indicated that they met their targets for stormwater management in that there were no stormwater problems lasting more than 2 days and there were no reported residual environmental effects arising from such events.

Carterton District Council has reported that 61% of their urban ward residents were satisfied with the stormwater system. South Wairarapa Council reported that they received one justifiable complaint of flooding in the 2007/08 year.

What does all this tell us?

A safe and secure reticulated water supply that provides high quality water to meet the demands of population and economic growth is a challenge for the region. Lack of adequate storage means there are some supply problems in the dry summer months, but new water sources are costly and can have significant environmental impacts. There is still potential to reduce per capita consumption, but new sources will almost certainly be required in the future.

The region on the whole is adequately served by its sewage and stormwater infrastructure. Though incidents of household flooding are relatively infrequent, they impact residents significantly. Overall, the indication is that the region's infrastructure is coping well with current population and weather conditions. However, an increasing population and higher rainfalls anticipated in the future may show a different picture. Asset management planning and infrastructure maintenance will be an ongoing investment issue for the region for the forseeable future.

While there are good recycling services available throughout the region and the amount of recycled material is growing, there is considerable capacity yet for additional recycling, which would help achieve much needed decrease in the volume of material going to landfills.

The region has been well served in relation to the reliability of electricity supply. The region has more capacity and in fact, considerable potential to contribute to national goals for the generation of electricity from renewable resources.

The affordability of home ownership has been an issue for many residents in the region and while economic recession will probably continue to lower the price of houses and improve home ownership affordabilty, affordability may continue to be a problem. There is some evidence of housing need in the region among those who rent arising from household crowding and the ability of some households to obtain rental housing that meets their needs.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington's *Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009-19* provides for Greater Wellington to:

- continue to explore opportunities for wind energy development on its own land
- work with other local authorities and organisations to identify potential renewable energy options for the region, eg marine energy
- investigate mini hydro generation for powering the water supply pumping infrastructure. Construct a mini hydro generator at Wainuiomata
- work with all councils in the region to develop a regional action plan to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, part of which will address the need for waste minimisation
- continue to work with all councils in the region on implementing the "regional form" part of the Wellington Regional Strategy which aims to address housing and urban design issues
- continue with water conservation programmes by promoting voluntary measures
- by 2012, return to a 2% security of supply standard by employing some short-term water supply options
- continue with water conservation programmes by promoting voluntary measures
- develop a Regional Water Strategy in conjunction with the city and district councils in the region. In case demand management measures do not achieve the desired results, it will plan conservatively and provide for alternative future water sources to be developed – Upper Hutt aquifer and a dam in the Akatarawa forest.
- continue to issue and monitor resource consents with respect to sewage disposal across the region.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Our physical and mental health is protected. Living and working environments are safe, and everyone has access to health care. Every opportunity is taken to recognise and provide for good health.

Why is a Healthy Community important?

A Healthy Community is an important aspect of three of the four well-beings with which councils are concerned - social, cultural and economic. Good health and the ability to access healthcare enables people to actively participate in and contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of the region, and to achieve a quality lifestyle for themselves.

What and who influences the Healthy Community outcome?

Public health initiatives, the provision of primary healthcare, opportunities for healthy life styles, healthy and safe living environments, and the beliefs, knowledge and habits of individuals together with the resources available to them all influence the achievement of a Healthy Community.

What have we focused on?

We have selected three focus areas for this outcome:

- access to healthcare
- individual well-being and
- living conditions

Sixteen indicators are used to provide a picture of the region's status in the three focus areas.

INDICATORS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITY

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE	INDIVIDUAL WELL-BEING	LIVING CONDITIONS
• Number of FTE General Practitioners • Percentage of children and adults with access to a primary health care provider • Affordability of GP visits as perceived by individuals • Percentage of children receiving full programme of immunisation	• Number of visits to regional parks and forests • Number of participants in the Regional Outdoors Programme • Percentage of short trips made by walking and cycling • Percentage of adults having regular physical activity • Nutrition levels (vegetable and fruit intake) • Rates of diabetes and obesity • Rates of suicide • Level of cigarette smoking • Life expectancy • Personal health status as perceived by individuals	• Occurrence of chronic health conditions • Air, soil and water quality

Some indicators for other community outcomes, in particular Healthy Environment, Essential Services and Prosperous Community are also relevant to the Healthy Community outcome.

SOURCES

A Portrait of Health, Key results of the New Zealand Health Survey 2006/07, Ministry of Health 2008

Atlas of Socioeconomic Deprivation in New Zealand, NZDep2006, Ministry of Health, June 2008

Keeping Well 2008-12, Wellington Region Strategic Plan for Population Health, Ministry of Health and Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and Capital and Coast District Health Boards, March 2008

PHIOnline-Public Health Intelligence, http://www.phionline.moh.govt.nz, Ministry of Health

The Social Report 2008, Ministry of Social Development

The State of our Environment – Annual Summary 2007/08, Greater Wellington Regional Council

Data has also been provided by:

The Medical Council of New Zealand

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

INDICATORS

ACCESS TO AND USE OF PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Primary health care refers to the professional health care that people receive in the community and is often the first point of contact with the health care system. A strong primary health care system is central to improving the health of all New Zealanders and reducing health inequalities between different groups. It reduces rates of hospitalisation. Access to, and use of primary health care providers can be influenced by cost, location, physical access, availability of service, time, transport and waiting lists. This data was collected through the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey.

NUMBER OF FTE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

This data provides an indication of the availability of primary healthcare service service. The data has been provided by the Medical Council of New Zealand.

INDIVIDUAL PERCEPTION OF GP AFFORDABILITY

Perceptions of GP affordability will influence the readiness with which people access professional health care. The data presented arises from a question in the Quality of Life Survey.

IMMUNISATION COVERAGE

Immunisation coverage is the percentage of children who have received all of their immunisations on the National Childhood Immunisation Schedule for their age. Immunisation coverage is measured to identify groups at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases and to evaluate the effectiveness of programmes designed to increase coverage. Immunisation coverage is measured at 'milestone ages'. The milestone ages are six months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 5 years and 12 years of age. The New Zealand Ministry of Health target for immunisation coverage is to have 95% of children fully immunised by the 24 month milestone age. The Ministry of Health collects this data.

Note that statistical data relating to health tends to be aggregated in accordance with the District Health Board regions. The Wellington region is covered by three District Health Boards - Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and Capital and Coast. The mismatch with local government boundaries makes it difficult at times to relate data to the Regional Council areas.

WHAT WE FOUND

According to the results of the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey, children and adults in the region have good access to a primary health care provider. A primary health care provider is the GP clinic, student health clinic, 24-hour accident and medical centre or nurse clinic that the survey participant (or the parents of child participants) reported they go to first when sick or injured.

The Wellington Region has the second highest rating in the country for children with access to a primary health care provider after Bay of Plenty / Taranaki / MidCentral. At 98.5 % this is higher than the national average (97.4%).

The proportion of adults who have access to a primary health care provider is 93.5%, close to the national average (93.8%). (See Table 9.1) Three regions have higher access among adults.

Children and adults in the region indicated regular use of their primary health care provider. (See Table 9.2) In the Wellington Region 80.9% of children and 82.2% of adults saw a GP in the last 12 months (compared to the national averages of 79.2% and 81.3% respectively).

Taking the region as a whole, Wellington has a similar rate of GPs per 100,000 population to the rate for the country as a whole. (See Table 9.3). The national average is 72 compared with a regional figure of 67.

There is some disparity within the region, however, with the Hutt Valley's rate being lower (at 58 per 100,000) than the Wairarapa's (69) and Wellington's (74).

INDIVIDUAL PERCEPTION OF GP AFFORDABILITY

6.8% of the region's residents reported that they wanted to use a GP or doctor about their own health in the last twelve months, but did not. This number was significantly higher for Pacific islanders (12.6%). A variety of reasons were given for not getting GP assistance with the most frequent one being that the GP was 'too busy/couldn't fit me in/long waiting time/after hours'.

Given the information above, it is not surprising that immunisation coverage for the milestone ages 6, 12, 18 and 24 months is above the national averages. Coverage is similar for all three District Health Board areas in the Wellington region. At the targeted 24 month milestone age, the region has a 7-8% higher coverage than the national average (71%).

However, there is no room for complacency about the region's coverage. The MOH has a target of 95% coverage at 24 months. While the Wellington region is not meeting this target, neither is the target yet being met nationally.

TABLE 9.1: ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

DHB AREA	PREVALENCE IN CHILDREN	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PREVALENCE IN ADULTS (95% CI)	NUMBER OF ADULTS
Wairarapa/ Hutt Valley/ Capital and Coast	98.5	88100	93.5	324100
New Zealand total	97.4	832200	93.8	2928500

TABLE SOURCE A Portrait of Health, Ministry of Health, 2008

TABLE 9.2: USE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

DHB AREA	PREVALENCE IN CHILDREN	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PREVALENCE IN ADULTS	NUMBER OF ADULTS
Wairarapa/ Hutt Valley/ Capital and Coast	80.9	72300	82.2	284800
New Zealand total	79.2	676800	81.3	2537400

TABLE SOURCE A Portrait of Health, Ministry of Health, 2008

TABLE 9.3: GPS PER 100,000 POPULATION

	CAPITAL AND COAST HEALTH (INCLUDES TLA-KLDC)	HUTT	WAIRAPA	NEW ZEALAND
Population	289,200	141,500	39,540	4,226,600
Number of doctors	901	241	51	9,757
Number of GPs	243	92	26	3,195
Doctors per 100k population	311	170	128	231
FTE GPs per 100k population	74	58	69	72

SOURCE Medical Council of New Zealand

TABLE 9.4: IMMUNISATION COVERAGE FOR THE WELLINGTON REGION COMPARED TO NEW ZEALAND, FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2008 (FOR CHILDREN WHO TURNED THE IDENTIFIED MILESTONE AGE BETWEEN 1 JANUARY 2007 AND 1 JANUARY 2008)

AREA	TOTAL, 6 MONTHS MILESTONE			TOTAL, 12 MONTHS MILESTONE			TOTAL, 18 MONTHS MILESTONE			TOTAL, 24 MONTHS MILESTONE (TARGET – 95%)		
	NO. ELIGIBLE	FULLY IMMUNISED FOR AGE	%	NO. ELIGIBLE	FULLY IMMUNISED FOR AGE	%	NO. ELIGIBLE	FULLY IMMUNISED FOR AGE	%	NO. ELIGIBLE	FULLY IMMUNISED FOR AGE	%
Capital & Coast Health DHB	4,018	2,767	69%	4,001	3,428	86%	2,822	1,974	70%	845	664	79%
Hutt Valley DHB	2,156	1,393	65%	2,058	1,750	85%	1,503	1,059	70%	501	390	78%
Wairarapa DHB	560	363	65%	588	511	87%	401	307	77%	109	85	78%
National	63,203	38,662	61%	61,484	49,856	81%	52,254	33,624	64%	25,824	18,383	71%

No. Eligible: The number of children who turned the milestone age during reporting period. **Fully Immunised for Age**: The number of eligible children who had completed all of their age-appropriate immunisations by the time they turned the milestone age. **National**: Includes the number of individuals where the address cannot be assigned to DHB, as individual's address has not been recognised.

DATA SOURCE Ministry of Health, Public Health Intelligence, National Immunisation Register Database

INDIVIDUAL WELL-BEING

INDICATORS

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Ministry of Health[12] states : Physical activity is protective against health conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and certain cancers (colon, post-menopausal breast, and endometrial). Physical activity also helps to lower blood pressure, as well as minimising weight gain, overweight and obesity, which are risk factors for heart disease and type 2 diabetes." This indicator is therefore a predictor of community health status.

LEVELS OF SHORT TRIP ACTIVE MODES, PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES, AND VISITOR NUMBERS TO REGIONAL PARKS

These three indicators give some further information about the the extent to which people in the region look after their own health by choosing to be physically active. The first indicator of this set shows how people exercise choice about how they transport themselves. The second and third indicators provide information about trends in the active use of the Greater Wellington's outdoor recreational opportunities. Greater Wellington collects this data.

NUTRITION (VEGETABLE AND FRUIT INTAKE)

Nutrition is a significant determinant of personal health. The Ministry of Health recommends that adults eat at least three servings of vegetables and at least two servings of fruit each day. The Minister of Health's target for 2007/08 for vegetable and fruit intake is that 70% of adults have adequate vegetable consumption and 62% of adults have adequate fruit consumption. The Ministry of Health collects data on vegetable and fruit consumption.

RATES FOR DIABETES, OBESITY AND SUICIDE

The Ministry of Health[13] says that "Diabetes presents a serious health challenge for New Zealand. It is a significant cause of ill health and premature death. Diabetes affects about 200,000 people in New Zealand but only half of these people have been diagnosed. The prevalence of diabetes across the population of New Zealand is currently estimated at around 4 percent."

Similarly the Ministry states that "A healthy body size is increasingly recognised as important for good health and wellbeing, as the evidence grows that obese children and adults are at greater risk of short-term and long-term health consequences. Overweight and obese children are likely to be obese into adulthood."[14] A long list of adult health conditions are attributable to obesity.

Suicide is a serious health and social issue and an indicator of the mental health and social wellbeing of the population.

The Ministry of Health collects data on rates of diabetes, obesity and suicide.

CIGARETTE SMOKING

The World Health Organisation defines a current smoker as "someone who has smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and is currently smoking at least once a month." Smoking is a major contributor to inequalities in health, remaining the leading cause of preventable death. Annually, there are 5,000 tobacco-related deaths in New Zealand.

The Ministry of Health measures the prevalence of smoking in adult populations and ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) manage an annual survey of Year 10 students (14 to 15 year olds). This survey investigates trends in relation to: adolescent smoking prevalence; parental smoking prevalence; and smoking in the home.

[12] A Portrait of Health, Ministry of Health, 2008,
[13] ibid, p93
[14] ibid

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Based on the mortality rates of the population in a region at each age in a given year or period, the life expectancy of a new born can be calculated. The life expectancy is a measure of the survival experience of the population, and the likelihood of a fatal health outcome at various ages. The Ministry of Social Development calculates life expectancies.

INDIVIDUAL PERCEPTION OF HEALTH

The Quality of Life Survey 2008 asked respondents how they rated their health in general.

WHAT WE FOUND

HEALTHY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Ministry of Health recommends that adults do at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity (equivalent to brisk walking) on most, if not all, days of the week. It is also recommended that, where possible, vigorous exercise is added for extra fitness and health benefits. In this region, there is significant room for improvement in this behaviour. Adults living in the Wellington region were significantly less likely (46.0%) to be regularly physically active and meet the recommendation of 30 minutes of physical activity a day on five or more days of the week, compared to the national average (50.5%). Only people in the Auckland region get less moderate intensity physical exercise than we do in the Wellington region. (see Table 9.5).

TABLE 9.5: REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR ADULTS

DHB AREA	PREVALENCE (%)
Northland / Tairawhiti / Hawke's Bay / Lakes / Whanganui	52.4
Waitemata	46.7
Auckland	40.3
Counties Manukau	53.0
Waikato	52.4
Bay of Plenty / Taranaki / MidCentral	54.9
Wairarapa / Hutt Valley / Capital and Coast	**46.0**
Canterbury	49.9
Nelson Marlborough / West Coast / South Canterbury / Otago / Southland	58.3
New Zealand total	**50.5**

DATA SOURCE 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey

TABLE SOURCE A Portrait of Health, Ministry of Health, 2008, Table 2.20, p96

As indicated for the Connected Community outcome, people increasingly appear to use active modes for travel to work and 74% in 2006 used active modes for trips shorter than 1 kilometre, while 27% used active modes for trips between 1 and 2 kilometres.

On a positive note, it seems that people in the Wellington area do, however, enjoy outdoor activities. The Greater Wellington Regional Council runs an annual outdoor recreation programme over the summer months, which is based on the region's network of regional forests and parks. The programme offers a range of events, allowing people to enjoy the recreation opportunities or explore the flora and fauna in more depth. Programmes cater for a variety of age groups and fitness level and events are free or provided at very little cost. The range of, and participation in programmes continues to increase. The 2008 programme attracted 14,105 people to 57 events – a 30% increase over the previous year.

Likewise, Greater Wellington Regional Council estimate that around 57% (268,071 people) of the regional community visited at least one regional park in the 2007/08 year (compared with 51% for the 2006/07 year). The Wellington region has five regional parks (Battle Hill, Belmont, Kaitoke, East Harbour and Queen Elizabeth) and two forests (Akatarawa and Pakuratahi). All are within one hour drive of central Wellington and provide a high quality natural environment, which can be enjoyed by all age groups and fitness levels (some areas are suitable for wheelchairs and buggies), most frequently for half or full day outings. The most popular activity tends to be walking, with biking and events becoming increasingly popular. Parks are also used for picnics and camping – Kaitoke and Battle Hill provide basic facilities and there is a commercial camp site in Queen Elizabeth Park.

Four of the regional parks (Battle Hill, Belmont, Kaitoke and Queen Elizabeth) and the two forests attracted an estimated 820,000 visits during the financial year ending 30 June 2008. (There were no counts available for the East Harbour Park.) This is up 25% from the 2006/07 year.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH STATUS

Table 9.6 below ranks the five key population health issues identified in 2005 by the MOH Public Health Intelligence Unit (PHI) for the DHB areas within the region, based on 2002/03 NZ Health Survey data and hospitalisation data.

TABLE 9.6: FIVE MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

CAPITAL AND COAST HEALTH	HUTT VALLEY	WAIRARAPA
Smoking	Smoking	Smoking
Obesity	Alcohol and Drugs	Obesity
Alcohol and Drugs	Obesity	Alcohol and Drugs
Cardiovascular Disease	Suicide	Physical Activity
Nutrition	Cancer	Suicide

OBESITY AND NUTRITION

Obesity is one of the top five key population health issues for all three DHBs in the region. Children in the region, with a prevalence of 9.1%, fare worse than the national average of 8.3%. For adults, however, the situation is better, with a prevalence of 25.3% cf 26.5% nationally.

TABLE 9.7: PREVALENCE OF OBESITY

DHB AREA	PREVALENCE FOR CHILDREN (%)	PREVALENCE FOR ADULTS (%)
Northland / Tairawhiti / Hawke's Bay / Lakes / Whanganui	8.9	30.2
Waitemata	5.9	20.5
Auckland	9.7	21.4
Counties Manukau	12.7	33.0
Waikato	9.2	29.2
Bay of Plenty / Taranaki / MidCentral	5.2	27.5
Wairarapa / Hutt Valley / Capital and Coast	**9.1**	25.3
Canterbury	6.1	24.5
Nelson Marlborough / West Coast / South Canterbury / Otago / Southland	8.2	27.9
New Zealand Total	**8.3**	26.5

DATA SOURCE 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey

TABLE SOURCE A Portrait of Health, Ministry of Health, 2008, Table 2.28, p 114

Of adults living in the Wellington region, 63.2% are likely to have the recommended three servings a day of vegetables, rating only 0.9% below the percentage of adults nationally who do so. Nevertheless, only adults in the three Auckland DHB areas are less likely to have adequate vegetables. Both the regional (and national 64.1%) figures fall well below the Minister's target of 70%. Adults living in the Wellington are very likely to have adequate fruit intake and rate well when compared to the national average (61.3% and 60.0% respectively). The region almost reached the Minister's targeted rate of 62% for the 2007/08 year.

TABLE 9.8: REGIONAL VEGETABLE AND FRUIT INTAKE

DHB AREA	PREVALENCE OF ADEQUATE VEGETABLE INTAKE (%)	PREVALENCE OF ADEQUATE FRUIT INTAKE (%)
Northland / Tairawhiti / Hawke's Bay / Lakes / Whanganui	70.6	60.4
Waitemata	55.7	61.6
Auckland	56.1	61.8
Counties Manukau	51.8	58.0
Waikato	70.8	55.9
Bay of Plenty / Taranaki / MidCentral	65.5	59.7
Wairarapa / Hutt Valley / Capital and Coast	63.2	61.3
Canterbury	69.4	61.9
Nelson Marlborough / West Coast / South Canterbury / Otago / Southland	72.4	58.6
New Zealand total	**64.1**	60.0

DATA SOURCE 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey

TABLE SOURCE A Portrait of Health, Ministry of Health, 2008, Table 2.18, p 86 and Table 2.19, p 91

DIABETES

Despite the region's relatively good showing on some of the indicators that focus on behaviours that can delay the onset of diabetes (good nutrition, more physical exercise, less smoking), the diabetes diagnosis rate of the Wellington Region (5.1%) is similar to other DHB areas and the national average (5.0%). (see Table 9.9)

TABLE 9.9: PREVALENCE OF DIAGNOSED DIABETES FOR ADULTS (%)

DHB AREA	PREVALENCE (%)
Northland / Tairawhiti / Hawke's Bay / Lakes / Whanganui	4.5
Waitemata	4.0
Auckland	4.9
Counties Manukau	8.2
Waikato	5.6
Bay of Plenty / Taranaki / MidCentral	4.8
Wairarapa / Hutt Valley / Capital and Coast	**5.1**
Canterbury	4.4
Nelson Marlborough / West Coast / South Canterbury / Otago / Southland	4.4
New Zealand Total	**5.0**

DATA SOURCE 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey

TABLE SOURCE A Portrait of Health, Ministry of Health, 2008, Table 3.10, p140

SUICIDE

Youth suicide has been and continues to be an issue for New Zealand as a whole. Overall national suicide figures showed an upward trend over the 1980s and 1990s, which peaked at 16.3 per 100,000 in 1995-1997 and 1996-1998. Since then the rate has fallen. Even so, when compared with 12 other OECD countries, deaths from suicide in New Zealand for the 15-24 years age group in 2004 were high (females – highest of all 13 countries, males third highest (28.6 and 27.3 per 100,000 respectively.)[15] New Zealand ranked in the middle of the OECD countries for suicide rates across age groups.

Suicide for the Wellington region has occurred at a rate per 100,000 population that has been consistently in the lower half of the 16 regions reported on for this indicator in the Ministry of Social Development's Social Report 2008 for the years 1999- 2005.

TABLE 9.10: SUICIDE RATES FOR REGIONAL AREAS

	SUICIDE RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION				
REGION	1999-2001	2000-2002	2001-2003	2002-2004	2003-2004
Northland	15.9	12.7	15.0	14.3	18.8
Auckland	12.5	11.8	11.9	11.7	11.8
Waikato	14.3	14.0	12.7	13.8	12.7
Bay of Plenty	16.0	15.1	16.8	16.1	15.3
Gisborne /Hawkes Bay	17.5	19.3	20.6	18.5	18.0
Taranaki	13.8	11.0	10.2	11.8	17.3
Manawatu-Wanganui	14.9	14.4	16.5	14.9	17.5
Wellington	11.4	11.1	12.1	12.9	12.8
Tasman / Nelson Marlborough / West Coast	20.7	19.5	14.9	10.9	11.0
Canterbury	13.6	13.8	13.8	14.1	13.9
Otago	12.7	12.8	13.4	13.9	13.4
Southland	15.7	12.4	16.4	16.1	19.3

SOURCE The Social Report 2008

The rate of hospitalised intentional self-harm in 2006, was lower than every other of the sixteen regions, except Southland. Wellington region's rate was 106 people per 100,000 population or 422 people in total.

[15] From the Suicide Facts, 2005-06, PHI monitoring report

SMOKING

Currently, Wellington Region has a lower smoking rate (16.5%) than New Zealand as a whole (19.9%). (see Table 9.11.) Over the last decade the smoking rate in the region has fluctuated. From 2001 to 2003 there was a decrease in the smoking rate, from 22.7% to 17.8%, but this was followed by a noticeable increase, peaking at 21.6% in 2004, and then a further decrease. There is no clear indication why this fluctuation should have occurred when there has been an ongoing decreasing trend across the nation (from 30% in 1986 to 24% in 2006).

TABLE 9.11: PREVALENCE OF ADULT SMOKERS (%)

DHB AREA	PREVALENCE OF ADULT SMOKERS (%)
Northland / Tairawhiti / Hawke's Bay / Lakes / Whanganui	26.2
Waitemata	15.3
Auckland	17.2
Counties Manukau	21.0
Waikato	23.6
Bay of Plenty / Taranaki / MidCentral	20.8
Wairarapa / Hutt Valley / Capital and Coast	**16.5**
Canterbury	18.3
Nelson Marlborough / West Coast / South Canterbury / Otago / Southland	20.7
New Zealand total	**19.9**

DATA SOURCE 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey

TABLE SOURCE A Portrait of Health, Ministry of Health, 2008, Table 2.13, p65

The 1997-2007 report from the Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) survey of year 10 students, indicates that students in the region were significantly less likely to be smokers in 2007 than they were in 1999 and 2003. The daily smoking prevalence in 2007 was 7% compared to 12% in 2003 and 16% in 1999. Nationally, the percentage of 14-15 year olds who smoked regularly dropped between 2003 and 2007 from 21% to 13 %. The regional figures on this aspect of youth smoking are not available. Regionally, however, the survey indicates that the proportion of students of this age who have never smoked has continued to increase – 57% have never smoked.

TABLE 9.12: PATTERNS OF SMOKING OF YEAR 10 STUDENTS

PREVALENCE OF SMOKING	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %
Smoking daily			
Wairarapa	11.2	6.9	10.3
Hutt Valley (Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City)	10.2	10.0	9.04
Capital & Coast Area (Wellington City, Porirua City & Kapiti Coast District)	7.7	7.2	6.4
National	9.0	8.2	7.3
Smoking weekly			
Wairarapa	3.02	6.9	3.4
Hutt Valley (Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City)	2.0	2.7	3.1
Capital & Coast Area (Wellington City, Porirua City & Kapiti Coast District)	3.2	3.2	3.4
National	3.02	6.94	3.43
Smoking Monthly			
Wairarapa	4.4	3.7	3.7
Hutt Valley (Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City)	3.4	2.2	3.0
Capital & Coast Area (Wellington City, Porirua City & Kapiti Coast District)	2.8	3.1	2.7
National	4.4	3.7	3.7
Smoke less frequently than monthly			
Wairarapa	8.54	10.2	8.6
Hutt Valley (Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City)	7.6	6.5	5.0
Capital & Coast Area (Wellington City, Porirua City & Kapiti Coast District)	7.8	5.1	5.8
National	8.54	10.19	8.58
Tried smoking, but not a current smoker			
Wairarapa	26.6	26.6	27.0
Hutt Valley (Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City)	26.8	29.0	22.5
Capital & Coast Area (Wellington City, Porirua City & Kapiti Coast District)	23.7	22.1	20.8
National	26.6	26.62	26.96
Never Smoked			
Wairarapa	49.4	49.6	57.4
Hutt Valley (Lower Hutt City and Upper Hutt City)	50.0	49.6	57.4
Capital & Coast Area (Wellington City, Porirua City & Kapiti Coast District)	54.8	59.5	60.9
National	49.4	53.8	57.2

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Life expectancy continues to show an upward trend for both sexes in the region, a result in line with national trends. (see Table 9.13). Over the last two decades, gains in longevity have been greater for males than females, so the age gap is beginning to close between the sexes.

TABLE 9.13: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, SELECTED YEARS

	1990-1992	1995-1997	2000-2002
Wellington Region			
For Males	73	75	77
For Females	79	80	82
National Averages			
For Males	73	74	77
For Females	79	80	81

DATA SOURCE Statistics New Zealand

NOTE Life expectancy is calculated over a three year period around census data. It is anticipated that data for the 2005-2007 period will be available in 2009.

INDIVIDUAL PERCEPTION OF HEALTH

61.4% of the region's residents rated their health as very good or excellent. However, once again this was significantly lower for Pacific Islanders (46.1%), older people (46.1% for those aged 65 years plus) and those in lower income groups (32.1% for those with a household income of less than $20,000).

LIVING CONDITIONS

INDICATORS

DEPRIVATION INDEX

The Deprivation Index is a complex indicator developed by the Ministry of Health, designed to show the relative deprivation of groups of people in small areas. It was created from data from the Statistics New Zealand 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings. It is constructed from nine weighted variables that reflect eight types of deprivation. Census information is aggregated to create an area measure of deprivation.

DEPRIVATION DOMAIN	CENSUS VARIABLES
Income	aged 18–64 years receiving a means-tested benefit
Income	living in households with equivalised income below an income threshold
Owned home	not living in own home
Support	aged under 65 years living in a single-parent family
Employment	aged 18–64 years and unemployed
Qualifications	aged 18–64 years and without any qualifications
Living Space	living in households below an equivalised bedroom occupancy threshold
Communication	with no access to a telephone
Transport	with no access to a car

The Deprivation Index therefore provides a picture of deprivation across a number of factors and indicates the accumulated social condition that is prevalent in an area. The accumulation of factors is likely to reflect social well-being and affect it in turn. It would be expected that area differences on some other indicators used in this report would show some consistency with the area differences in the Deprivation Index.

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

Heart-related health conditions and asthma are two chronic health conditions which are an issue for the New Zealand population and are addressed in the health targets of the New Zealand Health Strategy, or included in current policies. The Ministry of Health collects data on these chronic conditions as well as data on diabetes, obesity and suicide which have already been discussed.

AIR, SOIL AND WATER QUALITY

The quality of air, soil and water directly and indirectly affects health. High concentrations of air pollutants affect people's respiratory health. Soil quality affects the quality of the food we eat. Water which does not meet standards for public drinking water supply creates intestinal disorders and disease. Greater Wellington collects data on these aspects of the environment. These indicators are more fully focused on in the Healthy Environment Community Outcome.

WHAT WE FOUND

DEPRIVATION INDEX

Table 9.14 below[16] sets out for each Territorial Authority the proportion of their population which falls into each quintile of national results from the index.

Forty percent of the population as a whole in New Zealand will fall into Quintiles 4 and 5. The Masterton and Porirua areas have the greatest proportions of their populations falling into Quintiles 4 and 5 at 51% and 53% respectively. Lower Hutt and Carterton follow at 44% and 40% respectively, while Wellington, Kapiti, South Wairarapa and Upper Hutt fare better on 23%, 26%, 31% and 34%.

Forty percent of the population as whole in New Zealand will fall into Quintiles 1 and 2. The residents of all sub-areas except Masterton (32%) and Porirua (40%) are over-represented in comparison with New Zealand as a whole in the two least deprived quintiles.

TABLE 9.14: REGIONAL QUINTILE POSITIONS FOR DEPRIVATION INDEX

AREA	QUINTILE 1 (LEAST DEPRIVED)	QUINTILE 2	QUINTILE 3	QUINTILE 4	QUINTILE 5 (MOST DEPRIVED)
Carterton	24	24	12	37	3
Kapiti	18	29	27	21	5
Lower Hutt	25	15	16	19	25
Masterton	18	14	17	29	22
Porirua	30	10	7	10	42
South Wairarapa	20	22	26	24	7
Upper Hutt	27	14	24	23	11
Wellington	34	24	20	14	9

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

Diagnosed heart related conditions (medicated blood pressure, medicated cholesterol levels, and ischaemic heart diseases) in the Wellington region show only marginal variations from the national average. (See Table 9.15)

However, there is a noticablely higher rate of medicated asthma in the region, for children and adults (2% and 3% higher than the national avaerge). The cause of asthma is unknown, but symptoms can be triggered by allergens, respiratory infections, exercise, cold air, tobacco smoke and other pollutants."[17]

TABLE 9.15: A SUMMARY OF DIAGNOSIS (% OF POPULATION) OF SOME CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

HEALTH CONDITION	GREATER WELLINGTON REGION (WAIARAPA, HUTT VALLEY & CAPITAL AND COAST HAELTH DHBS)	NEW ZEALAND
High blood pressure – % with medicated high blood pressure	13.7%	13.0%
High cholesterol – % with medicated high cholesterol	8.3%	8.4%
Ischaemic heart diseases (IHD) – % with diagnosed IHD	13.7%	13.6%
Asthma – prevalence of medicated asthma in children	16.8%	14.8%
Asthma – prevalence of medicated asthma in adults	14.3%	11.2%

DATA SOURCE The New Zealand Health Survey 2006/07

[16] The table is derived from graphs contained in the Atlas of Socioeconomic Deprivation in New Zealand, pages 130, 136, and 144.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES ON HEALTH

Three environmental determinants of population health, air, water and soil quality, are not currently cause for significant concern in terms of the population's health.

The region's drinking water supply consistently complies with national standards. Groundwater, which is the main potable water source for residents outside urban areas and towns, shows evidence of land use activities, such as farming and on-site water disposal. However, in all but one recent year, all tests here have shown that drinking water standards are being met.

Air quality has generally been good over the last three years. Domestic fires continue to be the source of quantities of particulate matter that approach and sometimes exceed national air quality standards. This source of pollution has affected valley areas such as Tawa, Masterton, Upper Hutt and Wainuiomata on a small number of nights in winter in each of the last three years.

There has been some deterioration over the last three years in the quality of soils under intensive agricultural use, which will need to be monitored but are not a major cause of concern. Most tested sites did not exceed any of the seven targets for soil quality with just six of the 118 sites failing to meet the target range on three or more of the soil quality indicators.

What does this all tell us?

Current data indicate that:

- there is good access to GPs in the region
- there are some health disparities and inequalities across the region as reflected by the deprivation index
- obesity and smoking are issues for the region
- suicide continues to be an issue within the region
- the region's collective health would probably be further improved by people increasing their consumption of vegetables and fruit, by engaging in more physical activity, and by further decreasing smoking
- soil, water and air quality are not likely to be major determinants of health outcomes in the region.

Residents report, generally, that their heealth is good or excellent. However, there are disparities in this response to the Quality of Life survey and older/lower income/Pacific groups are not so positive about their health.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington is only one of many agencies who contribute to this outcome. Greater Wellington's *Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009-19* provides for:

- the further development of outdoor recreational opportunities through regional parks and forest areas
- the continued provision of an annual regional outdoor recreational programme (January to March)
- encouragement for people to walk and cycle as alternatives to using private cars and public transport
- monitoring air, soil and water quality and
- implementing resource management policies and procedures to maintain an environment which supports a healthy community.

[17] A Potrait of Health 2008, Ministry of Health, p143

STRONG AND TOLERANT COMMUNITY

STRONG AND TOLERANT COMMUNITY

All members of our community are empowered to participate in decision making and to contribute to society. We celebrate diversity and welcome newcomers, while recognising the special role of Tangata Whenua.

Why is a Strong and Tolerant Community important?

It is important that people have a sense of belonging and pride in their community, that diverse groups feel valued and respected by the community, that individuals can find the support they need, and can contribute to and have a say in what happens in their community. When these conditions exist, there is greater community cohesion.

Who and what influences the Strong and Tolerant Community outcome?

There are many formal and informal institutions that contribute to a strong and tolerant community.

Local government provides opportunities for people to influence local decisions that affect them and to take part in community events and networks. Community organisations provide services and opportunities for people to contribute to and participate with others in the community.

What have we focused on?

Three focus areas have been selected for this outcome:

- community participation
- democracy
- cultural diversity

We have used 10 indicators to give a picture of these focus areas.

INDICATORS FOR STRONG AND TOLERANT COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	DEMOCRACY	CULTURAL DIVERSITY
• Sense of community	• Voter participation in local elections	• Appreciation of cultural diversity
• Involvement in social networks and groups	• Understanding of and confidence in council decision making	• Formal relationships between Tangata Whenua and local authorities in the region
	• Desire to have more of a say in what councils do	• Number of Māori language speakers
	• Perception of public influence on council decision-making	• Proportion of Māori who speak te reo

SOURCES

Long-term Council Community Plans and Annual Reports: Greater Wellington Regional Council and all city and district councils in the Wellington region

Quality Of Life Survey 2008, AC Nielsen

The Social Report 2008: Ministry of Social Development

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

INDICATORS

The following indicators were measured by data from the Quality of Life Survey 2008 – a survey of regional residents.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Survey respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statements "It's important to me to feel a sense of community with people in my local neighbourhood" and "I feel a sense of community with others in my local neighbourhood"

INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL NETWORKS OR GROUPS

Survey respondents were asked if they belonged to any social networks or groups – a list of such groups was provided.

WHAT WE FOUND

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

66% of respondents said that it was important for them to feel a sense of community with people in their local neighbourhood, but 8% disagreed with the statement. However, only 57% reported actually feeling that sense of community and 15% disagreed. The importance of feeling a sense of community was significantly less in Wellington city (60%) and significantly higher in the Kapiti Coast district (77%) compared to the whole region. Similarly, the importance of feeling a sense of community was significantly less in young people (50% for those aged 15-24 years) but significantly higher for older people (75% for those aged over 65 years) compared with the region. The findings carried through to those reporting that they actually felt a sense of community. A significantly greater proportion of those living in the Kapiti Coast (69%) and the Wairarapa (68%) felt a sense of community while Wellington city residents had a significantly lower proportion (51%) who felt that sense of community compared with the region. Again, residents in the 65 plus age bracket are more likely to feel a sense of community (75%) while the opposite was the case for those in the 15-24 age bracket (43%).

INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL NETWORKS OR GROUPS

98% of respondents reported that they belonged to some sort of social network or group, with the family being the most popular group (82%). Other popular groups were work networks (62%), hobby or interest groups (38%) sports clubs (31%) and church groups (28%).

DEMOCRACY

INDICATORS

VOTER PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

Voter turnout rates indicate the extent to which citizens participate in the political process, and the interest and confidence they have in political institutions and the importance they attach to those institutions influencing their lives.

The Social Report, published by Ministry of Social Development, reports voter turn out rates throughout the country for local elections. In 2007, there were 249 separate elections for 12 regional councils, 21 district health boards, 16 city councils, 57 district councils and 143 community boards.

The next three indicators were measured using data from the Quality of Life survey. Five (strongly agree to strongly disagree) and four (no, small, some or large influence) point scales were used.

UNDERSTANDING OF AND CONFIDENCE IN COUNCIL DECISION MAKING

Respondents were asked if, overall, they understand how their Council makes decisions and whether they have confidence that council made decisions in the best interest of their city or district.

DESIRE TO HAVE MORE OF A SAY IN WHAT COUNCILS DO

Respondents were asked whether they would like more say in what their council does.

PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC INFLUENCE ON COUNCIL DECISION MAKING

Respondents were asked how much influence they feel that the public has on the decisions of council.

WHAT WE FOUND

VOTER PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

Voter turnout for the local elections in the Wellington region in 2007 was the same as it was in 2004, but at 43%, these were the lowest rates since the re-organisation of local government in 1989.

TABLE 10.1: VOTER PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

	ENROLLED ELECTORS WHO VOTED (%)						
YEAR	1989	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007
Wellington region	52	50	51	52	50	43	43

Turnouts in 2007 tended to be lowest in regions with large urban centres, with the lowest turnouts registered in Wellington, Waikato (37%), Auckland (38%) and Canterbury (44%). The highest turnouts were registered in the small and South Island communities. This was also the pattern of previous local authority elections.

The national turnout in 2007 was also the lowest since 1989 at 44%, continuing a decline down from a peak turnout in 1992.

UNDERSTANDING OF COUNCIL DECISION MAKING AND CONFIDENCE IN COUNCIL DECISION MAKING

Only 40% of the region's residents, overall, said that they understand how their council makes decisions and 31% disagreed with that statement. A much higher proportion (51%) said they had confidence that their council makes decisions in the best interest of their city or district although 18% disagreed. Of those that expressed no confidence, the most frequently cited reason was "lack of consultation/ don't listen to public submissions" and "dislike of specific decisons or outcomes".

DESIRE TO HAVE MORE OF A SAY IN WHAT COUNCILS DO

41% said that they would like to have more of a say in what their council does, although a fifth (23%) said they did not. Those in the highest household income bracket of $100,000+ were less likely to want more of a say (35%) compared to the whole region, but Maori, Pacific Islanders and those living in Porirua would like more of a say in what councils do (51%, 55% and 48% respectively).

PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC INFLUENCE ON COUNCIL DECISION MAKING

67% of respondents said the public has some or a large amount of influence on councils' decisions but 31% said that it did not. Significantly more people in the younger age bracket (15-24 years) considered that the public had some influence (76%).

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

INDICATORS

APPRECIATION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Quality of Life Survey 2008 asked respondents whether, as New Zealand is becoming home for an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures from different countries, it makes their local area a worse or better place to live – and why.

FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TANGATA WHENUA AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE REGION

Local authorities have statutory responsibilities to engage with Māori and to recognise the Treaty of Waitangi.The Local Government Act 2002 places specific obligations on local authorities that are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes. The Act includes requirements for local authorities to provide opportunities for to contribute to decision-making through establishing and maintaining appropriate processes, providing relevant information, considering ways in which the development of Māori capacity can be fostered, and taking into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and tradition with their ancestral land, water, sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.

In the Wellington region, those identifying as Māori make up 12.3% of the population (compared with 14% nationally). The region's iwi include Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga, Te Atiawa/Taranaki ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui, Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Ngati Toa Rangatira, and Rangitāne ki Wairarapa.

MĀORI LANGUAGE SPEAKERS

Māori language is a central component of Māori culture and also forms part of the broader culltural identity and heritage of New Zealand. In 1987, the Māori language was recognised as an official New Zealand language.

The Social Report (2008) of the Ministry of Social Development reports on the prevalence of Māori language speakers as an important aspect of participation and identity.

WHAT WE FOUND

APPRECIATION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

62% of residents thought that the increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures in New Zealand makes it a better place to live; only 5% thought it makes New Zealand worse. Higher income households, Wellington city residents and Asian/Indian residents were more likely to think that think that cultural diversity makes New Zealand better (67%, 75% and 79% respectively) than the whole of the region.

Reasons cited for different lifestyles and cultures being positive were "diversity good/broader perspectives" (59%), "good to mix with different cultures" (39%) and "good to learn about other cultures" (35%). "Lack of integration" (41%) and "too many foreigners" (20%) were cited as negative reasons.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TANGATA WHENUA AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Each council in the region has developed its own relationships and mechanisms to foster the development of Māori capacity and the participation of Māori in local decision-making. It is common among the councils for there to be formal partnership understandings with the iwi in their area, though this is not the case in all councils. Where such formal arrangements do not exist, other on-going relationships have been established. Arrangements generally include mechanisms for ensuring that the views of taura here (Māori residents whose tribal affiliations lie outside the region) are taken into account in relevant decision-making.

Councils have set up various mechanisms to support formal and informal relationships with Māori. These include Māori liaison positions, regular meetings with council management and councillors, discussion forums, advisory groups and standing committees. Kapiti Council is considering establishing a Māori ward for its elections. Councils typically utilise focused consultation processes for Māori over specific issues and in relation to annual and long term plans. Some councils offer funding support to develop Māori capacity.

Greater Wellington has a long standing and well developed relationship with iwi in the region.

- a charter of understanding was established in 1993, and jointly reviewed in 2000, with a further review currently underway
- Ara Tahi is Greater Wellington's inter-iwi representative group and is the forum for collective discussions and for policy advice to council. Ara Tahi meets formally six times per year. Six technical workshops are also held annually on a range of topics.
- Māori representatives are appointed to council committees that do not already have iwi or Māori representation
- Greater Wellington funds selected iwi–led projects that help build the relationship and enable iwi to practise tino rangatiratanga
- two specialist liaison positions exist to assist Council and iwi in working through issues and to build and maintain strong relationships with iwi groups.

MAORI LANGUAGE SPEAKERS IN THE WELLINGTON REGION

In the 2006 census, 12% of the region's population identified as Māori compared to 14% nationally. Three per cent of the total Wellington region population indicated they were Māori speakers. There was some variation in the age groups speaking Māori – 4% of 15-29 year olds but only 2% of those aged over 65 years.

Of the 55,000 Māori people in the Wellington region, almost a quarter (23%) reported they could hold a conversation in Māori about everyday things, similar to the national average of 24%. The Wellington region was rated 7th in the country for the percentage of Māori with Māori conversational skills, the third lowest of North island regions, (Auckland and Taranaki regions being lower) but ahead of all South Island regions. (Table 10.2)

TABLE 10.2: MAORI SPEAKERS BY REGION

	MAORI SPEAKERS		
REGION	1996	2001	200
Northland	29.4	29.6	27.9
Auckland	20.5	20.7	19.8
Waikato	27.0	27.1	25.4
Bay of Plenty	31.8	31.4	30.3
Gisborne	34.4	34.1	31.8
Hawke's Bay	27.1	26.7	25.3
Taranaki	23.9	23.5	20.4
Manawatu-Wanganui	25.2	24.9	23.8
Wellington	24.1	24.3	22.6
Tasman	14.8	16.3	14.7
Nelson	16.8	19.8	18.4
Marlborough	16.0	16.8	15.6
West Coast	13.8	14.4	12.4
Canterbury	16.8	18.0	16.3
Otago	15.5	17.1	15.5
Southland	17.6	18.7	16.4

SOURCE The Social Report 2008, Ministry of Social Development

Māori who live in areas with a high proportion of Māori residents are the most likely to be Māori language speakers. In 2006, the regions with the highest proportions of people with conversational Māori skills were Gisborne, the Bay of Plenty, Northland, Waikato and the Hawke's Bay.

What does all this tell us?

For two thirds of the region, the feeling of a sense of community is important, yet only half actually have that community feeling. It is the older age group for whom this is important and who experience along with those living in more rural areas, such as the Wairarapa and the Kapiti Coast. The indications are that our urban lifestyles and the younger generation are influencing our sense of community belonging and that sense of community feeling may diminish in the future as the younger and more urban generation pursue a different way of life.

A sense of community did not translate to participating in one of New Zealand's key democratic processes – voting in local body elections. Wellington region residents did not have a high participation rate in local body elections in 2007, reflecting a decreased national turnout and a trend for there to be lower turnout in areas with large urban populations. Only half the region's residents have confidence in their council making the best decisions for their area and there is a relatively low understanding of council's decision-making processes. Nevertheless, two thirds of those in the region think that the public does influence what their councils do and there is strong interest from Maori and Pacific Islanders to have more say in local government.

Two thirds of those living in the Wellington region appreciate the cultural diversity and think that different lifestyles and cultures make New Zealand a better place to live. The increasing recognition of the importance of Maori in New Zealand and the Wellington region is reflected by the fact that all councils in the region have strong, valued and strengthening formal relationships with tangata whenua. Maori make up 12% of the population and of these approximately a quarter are able to use te reo Maori in everyday conversations. However, only 3% of all the region's residents can speak Maori.

Greater Wellington's response

Greater Wellington will continue to:

- consult with the community as a whole and with specific communities of interest on matters relating to the council's business. It is currently looking at ways to enhance community participation in Council decision-making.
- provide information to communities on matters that are important to their concerns
- ensure that there is wide public knowledge of the ways in which individuals and communities can be familiar with, and contribute to council's democratic processes, including the process of council elections in 2010 with a view to increasing the percentage of electors who exercise their right to vote for representation on Greater Wellington Regional Council.
- provide information to communities on matters that are important to their concerns
- conduct meetings and carry out public accountability processes according to statutory requirements
- engage with iwi to ensure that iwi can contribute to Council's decision-making.

Greater Wellington's *Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009-19* provides for:

- Ara Tahi to continue to meet formally six times a year and hold six technical workshops a year
- Maori representatives on all council committees
- two specialist iwi liaison positions
- funding for iwi projects that benefit both Greater Wellington and iwi
- review of the charter of understanding.