

Report 11.206  
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee  
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## Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index 2001-2010

### 1. Purpose

To provide the Committee with the Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index (2001-2010) report (GPI) and an outline of the communications for launching the report.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

The GPI Working Group has been progressing the Wellington region GPI for the last three years. Preparing a regional GPI is one of the actions in the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS).

The GPI is a monitoring framework for assessing progress towards the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being goals of the WRS. These well-being goals are represented by the nine community outcomes identified in the WRS.

This GPI will enable the WRS Committee, organisations and individuals to understand key trends occurring in various domains in the [region](#) analyse the opportunities and issues that may emerge over time, and could assist in advocating for other agencies with key responsibilities in certain areas, to work together.

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At a workshop on 25 February 2010 the WRS Committee discussed an earlier draft Wellington Region GPI (2001-2008) report. It was decided at that workshop not to publish the report but to discuss it with key organisations and individuals who would have a significant interest in the findings of the report.

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This was undertaken and discussions and presentations were made to a range of individuals/organisations.

## **4. GPI 2001-2010**

### **4.1 Key findings**

The Wellington Region GPI 2001-2010 report in **Attachment 1**.

The WR-GPI shows that there are positive and negative trends across the indicators but overall, the general movement across the whole of the indicators is positive, with the regional GPI being around 5% higher in 2010 compared to 2001. This shows that we have made some progress on our overall regional well-being.

It should be noted the GPI does not include data beyond 2010 at this stage, so any trends since then, including those emerging as a result of the recent economic recession, do not show up in the GPI report.

### **4.2 Economic wellbeing**

Economic well-being is made up of indicators from two community outcome areas – prosperous community and entrepreneurial and innovative community. Overall, the trend for the economic well-being GPI is positive, as it has increased between 2001 and 2010. The trend shows that the GPI gradually increased between 2002 and 2008, and then decreased from 2008 to 2010. This can be attributed to the economic recession, with an increase in unemployment rates, and decreases in the value of building consents and business start-ups as a percent of business turnover (start-ups and closures).

### **4.3 Environmental wellbeing**

The environmental well-being GPI is represented by only one community outcome called healthy environment. This outcome connects to the principles of environmental well-being through its focus on aspiring to have high quality water, air and soils, well-functioning ecosystems and sustainable resource use. The trend for the environment well-being GPI between 2001 and 2010 has gradually increased, with increases observed for the majority of indicators.

### **4.4 Cultural wellbeing**

The cultural well-being GPI is made up of indicators from one community outcome – Strong and Tolerant Community. Overall, the Cultural well-being GPI indicates no significant trend over the 2001 to 2010 period. Whilst little progress has been made, as a region our cultural well-being is relatively high. Overall, residents have a high level of support available from family and friends during difficult times, and the region is home to people from diverse cultures and lifestyles.

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#### 4.5 Social wellbeing

The social well-being GPI is made up of indicators from five community outcome areas – healthy community, connected community, sense of place, quality lifestyle and regional foundations. Overall, the social well-being GPI indicates no significant trend over the 2001 to 2010 period. However, there are signs of improvement with a slight increase observed over the last two years.

Of most concern is the healthy community GPI outcome which shows a decline in well-being since 2001, with many indicators showing a negative trend. Good health is vital to well-being, as without good health and the ability to access healthcare, people are unable to actively participate in and contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of the region.

### 5. Publication of the GPI and ongoing updates

Once adopted, the GPI report will be published in hard copy form and made available to interested organisations and individuals.

A website has also been developed for the Wellington Region GPI. The aim of this website is to ensure ease of use, ease of comprehension and to reach anyone who is interested in the GPI. The GPI report, as well as individual reports on each wellbeing areas, will be able to be downloaded from the website. The GPI website will be live from mid-July.

The data used in the GPI will be continually updated as and when it becomes available.

As previously reported to the Committee, work is being undertaken on full cost accounts in conjunction with the Waikato Regional Council. This work will be reported to the Committee as it is progressed.

### 6. Communications

A Communications Plan is appended to this report as **Attachment 2**.

A press statement launching the GPI website will be released under Sir John Anderson's name on behalf of the Committee when the website goes live in July.

The WRS Office is happy to talk to any [council](#) about the GPI. Alternatively, the council representatives on the GPI Working Group will also be able to discuss the GPI with their respective councils.

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## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Adopts the Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index (2001-2010), subject to final editing.*
4. *Agrees to the Communications Plan for the Genuine Progress Index (2001-2010) Report.*

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**Attachment 1:** Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index: 2001-2010

**Attachment 2:** Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index: Communications Plan

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