

AMENDED LONG-TERM PLAN FOR WELLINGTON

The Long-Term Plan (LTP) is a significant strategic document that outlines the Council's priorities and planned investments for the next 10 years, detailing how they intend to use funds from rates, borrowing, and other sources.

Timeline for Approval

- ✓ 26 November 2024 – LTP Committee decided options for consultation
- ✓ 17 December 2024 - Committee approved draft budget
- 13 March 2025** Consultation document finalised
- 20 March Public consultation opens**
- 20 April** Public consultation closes
- 25 June** LTP amendment adopted by Committee
- 26 June** LTP amendment adopted by Council

The Long-Term Plan is being amended after Councillors approved a Notice of Motion in October 2024 halting the sale of the Council's minority shareholding in Wellington Airport. The amendment focuses on options to address two financial risks – underinsurance and an undiversified investment portfolio.

The Council publicises that *'by deciding to stop, slow, or reduce some capital projects, it aims to decrease its borrowings and free up debt headroom to improve the city's ability to recover after a natural disaster'*.

A draft budget was approved by Councillors on 17 December 2024. As costs rise in all sorts of areas and calls on services change and possibly increase in areas such as renewing pipe work across the city, strengthening buildings, demolition tasks, changes to bike lane designs etc. these draft numbers may and probably will increase.

At the WCC's Long-Term Plan, Finance and Performance Committee in November 2024, Councillors and Pouwiwi voted that the following proposals (bullet points) be put forward for public consultation:

- **Removing the budget for repairs to the Begonia House, with a business case on future options to be prepared.** An Upgrade Business Case Study was already presented to WCC by Rationale (based in Arrowtown), the company tasked with developing options for consideration. This report was presented to the WCC in May 2024 and covered 6 options from demolition through to Scope Plan (new facilities and rebuild). These options are outlined at: <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/projects/begonia-house>

The Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden has set-up a request for donations to help save the Begonia House.

You can read more about their efforts here:

<https://friendsofthewellingtonbotanic.wordpress.com/save-the-begonia-house/>

- **Delaying for seven years the strengthening of the earthquake-prone Bond Store, which houses Wellington Museum, and investigating an alternative site for the museum.**

This is a popular museum for locals, a tourist destination, and an impressive harbourside heritage building; one of the most architecturally significant in Aotearoa. It was recently added to the register of Wellington's earthquake prone buildings with a deadline for completing seismic work by 15 August 2030. However the Council received this advice from MBIE: *'... reviewing the latest advice in conjunction with the MBIE Seismic Risk Guidance for Buildings, there is nothing within the assessment that indicates that the Bond Store isn't suitable for continued occupation by Wellington Museum.'*

<https://wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/news-and-information/our-wellington/2023/02/wellington-museum>

- **Extending the delivery timeframe for the remainder of the Bike Network from 10 years to 20 years, with a focus for the next three years on delivering what is already in train and a separated bike connection east-west and north-south across the central city.**

Many parts of the Bike Network have been installed using temporary plastic components; a tactical approach, enabling easier review and remediation.

It's not clear whether the planned reviews have been conveniently forgotten by WCC. The question must therefore be asked if WCC is still going ahead with three years of bike network development (as proposed above), when are they going to complete their reviews, make necessary changes and pay for any modifications/changes arising to improve the Network? *'A separated bike connection east-west and north-south across the central city'* yet to be built is not work already in train but additional work with a significant cost to ratepayers.

On 23 January 2025 The Post reported Thorndon Quay had sprung a substantial leak after the Council had been warned by a number of parties that the aged and potentially brittle piping under the roadway could fail and it might have been prudent to consider upgrading some of it before the major bike/bus lanes were constructed.

Is there a budget and is it adequate to consult, review, improve, and rebuild parts of the road network where it's not performing well for everyone, and for replacement of any underground infrastructure that fails below new *permanent* layouts? What exactly is the full budget for the east-west/north-south bike connection development?

- **Removing the City Streets budget, for bus, bike and pedestrian improvements in the central city and on key arterial routes, from 2027/28 onwards.**

This needs to be explained in more detail and WCC needs to outline how this fits with the statement made about 'delivering what is in train and additional connections and an extended timeframe from 10 to 20 years for the rest of the bikework development'.

- **Stopping the Karori Events Centre fit out, and providing further advice on next steps for the building.**

Planners stress that Community Centres are important places for people to meet, socialise and network. But Thorndon doesn't have one. Furthermore, the Council recently closed the Wadestown Community Centre and now signals no further funds to assist the Karori Events Centre.

- **Reducing funding for strengthening earthquake-prone buildings in Te Ngākau Civic Square.**

What happens to the buildings? Does this risk another set of 'ghost buildings' not fixed and not used?

- **Continuing with resource consent for the redevelopment of Frank Kitts Park, and capping the Council's contribution to the proposed Fale Malae at \$5 million.**

Which parts of Frank Kitts Park are yet to be redeveloped? At what cost? Will building new structures such as the Fale Malae, although worthy, take precedence over fixing or demolishing buildings in Te Ngākau Civic Square or earthquake strengthening national treasures like the Bond Store (pictured below)?



- **Reducing funding for community facilities building upgrades (part of the Te Awe Mapara Community Facilities Plan).**

Each community will assess the impact on facilities in their suburb. Make a submission to WCC when public consultation opens in March.

- **Delaying the suburban centres upgrades programme to begin in three years, but retaining some budget for minor beautification works and planning.**

Could this be an exercise in 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'. The cuts outlined feel knee jerk and illustrative of a lack of long term planning for the City. The costings are all 'maybe's'.

We have witnessed how Council costs work and have been seen it to be wanting time and time again. It appears remedial work is not planned for, nor adequately costed.

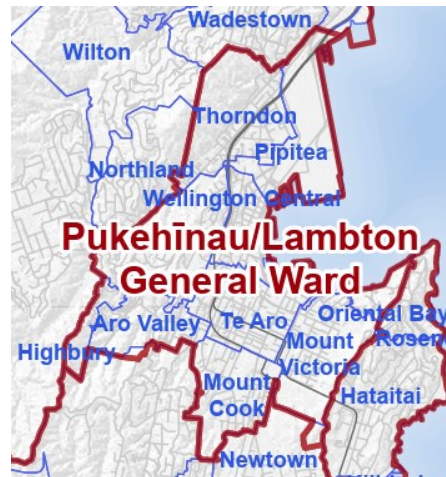
The options for changes to the capital work programme will be used to inform the Consultation Document for the Long-Term Plan amendment.

Initial estimates by Council staffers suggest the proposed changes would provide up to approximately \$400 million in savings, with detailed financial implications outlined in December 2024. The draft budget for the amendment was approved in December 2024 and public consultation material will be finalised in March.

We get to have our say via a public consultation period between 20 March and 20 April 2025.

The Council makes the final decisions once community feedback has been considered, with the amendment to the Long-Term Plan scheduled to be adopted on 26 June 2025.

11 OCTOBER 2025 LOCAL BODY ELECTION



Thorndon and Pipitea are part of the Pukehinau/Lambton General Ward.

In order to vote in a local body election you need to be enrolled on the General or Maori electoral roll. You can do this by going to <https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online/>

The number of Councillors is determined by the estimated resident population of each Ward and the total population of the city as a whole. Currently three Councillors represent the population of the Pukehinau/Lambton General Ward.

Voters on the Maori roll cast a vote for a Maori Ward Councillor.

All voters from either the General or Maori roll can vote for the Mayor.

After all the Ward votes are counted the result is 15 elected Councillors and a Mayor.

NB: there are also votes for Community Boards, but these are only applicable to voters in Mākara/Ōhāriu and Tawa.

In addition to the Councillors and Mayor there are two Pouwi/Mana Whenua representatives. On 26 October 2022, the Council unanimously agreed to appoint two representatives of the Tāka Here partners to various Council Committees for the 2022-2025 triennium. Pouwi have decision making rights (vote) at Committees. They are not entitled to vote at full Council meetings. The process for appointment of nominated Pouwi, for the next triennium, will be finalised after the 2025 election.

ACCESS TO THE BOTANIC GARDEN

Over a year ago the Council removed all short stay parking beside the Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā in Glenmore St and Tinakori Rd. These streets provide primary entry points to many key attractions in this Garden of National Significance and important Heritage Area.

Since then users who need to drive or be driven to the Garden are compelled to locate parking elsewhere. Often this proves to be impossible near the Garden. It is clear that many (wellbeing) benefits that the various Garden amenities provide are denied to a great many people and families who can no longer easily access them. A more nuanced approach could better balance this extraordinary resource management anomaly.

TO DETOUR OR NOT TO DETOUR?

Contractors preparing to install the signalised traffic lights at the Tinakori/Hutt Rd intersection provided Thorndon residents 10 days notice that traffic in Hutt Rd intending to enter Tinakori Rd would be detoured through Davis St and Hobson St and that this detour would be in place for 16 to 24 weeks, commencing from 28 October 2024.

The lack of consultation was swiftly responded to by the TRA, impacted schools and others to ensure the community's voice was heard. A review of other viable options followed, and one of these prevailed.

It was a lesson for everyone in the value of undertaking early *consultation* with affected parties. This was one of the examples used by the Association to highlight for WCC's Regulatory Processes Committee the benefits of meaningful, timely consultation. Benefits arise, and risks mitigated when the process is undertaken early, taps into local knowledge, and listens for practical insights from communities who are well versed in what's where.

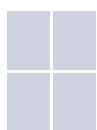
Work at the intersection should be concluding soon. One or two night closures at the northern end of Tinakori Rd may yet be necessary in the final phase of the project.

QUEEN MARGARET COLLEGE MASTER PLAN

The opening of QMC's new library in October 2024 was the perfect occasion for the Board of Governors and the Leadership Team to launch the reimagined master plan to further expand and modernise the school's campus in a phased approach over the next 10-20 years.

This impressive plan can be viewed here:

<https://www.qmc.school.nz/campus-master-plan/>



THORNDON
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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WELLINGTON GIRLS' COLLEGE COURT COVERS



January saw the removal of a continuous row of trees along Wellington Girls' College frontage in Moturoa St. This makes space for a canopy to be built over the adjacent courts. The work is due to be finished in April 2025.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Friends of Queens Park

Sunday **16 March**, Saturday **12 April**

10AM – 12 Noon weather permitting. Meet near the top of the Park Street steps. All very welcome; just turn up. See more here:

<https://www.thorndon.org.nz/queens-park-a-forgotten-gem/>

Thorndon Farmers' Market

8.30 – 12.30 every Saturday

Wellington Cathedral car park, 2 Hill Street

20 March WCC's Long-Term Plan Public consultation opens

STEADY AS YOU GO EXERCISE

These classes for seniors are held on Fridays at 1pm in the Loaves & Fishes meeting room, 2 Hill Street. A donation of \$3.00 would be appreciated and you can register at your first meeting.

Steady as You Go classes improve balance and leg strength, flexibility, general fitness and wellbeing. The classes are designed to improve strength and balance and help prevent a fall. It is a great way to meet new people. Classes consist of a combination of sitting, standing and walking exercises, and take around an hour. The classes are in 10 week cycles and so by continuing you can measure how you have improved over your first 10 weeks or second 10 weeks and so on.

Published quarterly by Thorndon Residents' Association & distributed throughout Thorndon and Pipitea.

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<https://www.thorndon.org.nz/join-us/>

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Market Update - Wellington real estate market outlook for 2025: stability and moderate growth ahead.

The Wellington real estate market in 2024 saw a notable shift toward greater stability, thanks to a resurgence in buyer confidence, a livelier spring season, and a steady increase in both buyer activity and stock availability. As we look ahead to 2025, these trends are expected to continue, creating a solid foundation for moderate growth in the new year.

Thank you for your positive feedback and support for me at Tommy's Real Estate. I've truly enjoyed helping those who have reached out. Just a reminder—I'm more than happy to provide free market appraisals with absolutely no obligations, especially after the recent RV changes. If you're interested, feel free to give me a call on 021969808!

Barry O'Brien

The Peoples Agent

