

Summary Rationales for Indicators for Wellington Region GPI

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 (WRS Outcome definition)

Focus has been given to regional GDP to capture the economic activity of the whole region. There are also indicators for aspects of the workforce, levels of unemployment and household income. The latter gives an idea of the wealth of the community. Secondary contextual indicators cover the retail sector, building consents and the value of the unpaid economy (volunteers) since research has shown that people spend more time in unpaid work than they do in market work. There is cross-over between the Prosperous Community and Entrepreneurial & Innovative outcomes, which both measure aspects of economic well-being.

Connected Community

Our connections and access are efficient, quick and easy - locally, nationally and internationally. Our communication networks, air and sea ports, roads and public transport systems are world class and enable us to link well with others, both within and outside the region. (WRS Outcome definition)

A range of indicators have been included to cover active and passive transport modes, access to public and private transport and public transport reliability. Access to public and private transport increases access to employment, education & medical services as well as access to the wider community. An integrated network can inform us about the levels of mobility that are possible through good infrastructure. Broadband was identified as a priority in the strategy for stimulating economic growth and connectivity so certain indicators reflect this. There is an overlap with the Healthy Environment outcome indicator set.

Entrepreneurial & Innovative Community

Innovation, creativity and new endeavours 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. (WRS Outcome definition)

Focus has been given to research and development activity as well as the number of business start-ups. These link to business confidence and activity. Secondary and more contextual information around employment levels in the research and higher education sectors and proportion of GDP spent on research and development, help to provide a story around the uptake of innovation and entrepreneurialism in the Wellington regional economy. There is a cross-over between the Entrepreneurial & Innovative and Prosperous Community outcomes, as both measure aspects of economic well-being.

Healthy Environment

We have clean water, fresh air and healthy soils. Well functioning and diverse ecosystems make up an environment that can support our needs. Resources are used efficiently. There is minimal waste and pollution.

Indicators cover aspects of the physical environment. Many of the indicators chosen focus on the quality aspect of the environment with less emphasis on having resources in sufficient quantity. This is largely due to a lack of data being available in this area at a regional level. Indicators also reflect more contextual aspects of the environment such as resource depletion, soil degradation and habitat quality. Indicators around surface and groundwater availability and use – minimum flows in rivers, % of allocation in rivers, groundwater aquifer use and allocation are currently being developed by Greater Wellington. It is anticipated that these indicators will be included in this data set once the data becomes available. There are linkages to Connected Community indicators.

Quality Lifestyle

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

Quality lifestyle can mean different things to different people. The aim was to select indicators that cover a mix of the elements that contribute to the well-being of most people. Topics such as crime, leisure time activities, waiting lists for state houses, tourism, happiness, affordable housing, work/life balance, diversity of arts scene and access to local parks and green spaces were considered suitable to provide a broad-ranging assessment of quality of life. The arts make a strong contribution to community strength & identity and are recognised for facilitating communication across social, economic, cultural & ethnic groups. Levels of graffiti and vandalism give an indication of how people perceive the safety of their communities. Many of the indicators are perception ones that have been sourced from the regional sample of the Quality of Life survey. There are linkages between Quality Lifestyle, Sense of Place and Strong and Tolerant Community indicators.

Sense of Place

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

Social cohesion, pride and sense of community are the main elements focussed on. Most of these are perception indicators. Volunteer numbers have been included as increased numbers are often linked to a sense of community spirit, stronger connectiveness to the community as well as to the needs of the community. There are linkages to Quality Lifestyle and Strong and Tolerant community outcomes.

Regional Foundations

High quality and secure infrastructure and services meet our everyday needs. These are developed and maintained to support the sustainable growth of the region, now and in the future.

High quality and secure essential services to meet everyday needs are the cornerstone of regional foundations. Indicators relating to security of supplies for water, electricity, gas as well as access to roading have been included in this dataset. There is limited information at a regional level on some of the essential services as councils measure these in different ways. There are linkages to Connected Community and Healthy Environment indicators.

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 encourage good health.

Indicators capture elements of health services, physical and mental health measures, as well as social factors and aspects of the environment (air, water, transport, recreation) that are related to health outcomes. We have recognised that poverty and socio-economic factors are key indicators for health which have been captured by housing overcrowding and deprivation index indicators. Some indicators are very high-level and capture several aspects of the health picture for the region. Not all indicators capture everything. There are linkages to the Healthy Environment indicator set.

Strong & Tolerant Community

People are important. 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.

Indicators selected cut across the three areas of diversity, the special role of tangata whenua and participation in decision making. It should be noted that a number of indicators that relate to tangata whenua cut across the other outcome areas and where possible will be disaggregated by ethnicity. There are linkages to Sense of Place and Quality Lifestyle outcomes.