

Wellington Regional Strategy



In association with Positively Wellington Business

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The Wellington Regional Strategy project is now well established with an adopted project plan, funding and a governance mandate from all the participating councils, and a project team working on many workstreams researching and compiling information. Phase 1 of the project, Establishment, is now completed. Phase 2, Research and Investigations, is well underway. A copy of the adopted project plan can be obtained from vivienne.mckevitt@gw.govt.nz.

The Wellington Regional Strategy is a two-year project of the metropolitan councils of the Wellington region, with important partnerships with the Wairarapa councils, Positively Wellington Business, Government and Ara Tahi, the regional council's iwi advisory committee. The Strategy is proposed to be adopted by the councils in mid 2006 and launched in July 2006.

The project goal is the touchstone in the development of this important regional strategy and has been adopted as:
Hutt City. Meetings of the Forum are open to the public.

"Working together with the goal of building an internationally competitive Wellington by developing and implementing a vision and an integrated framework to achieve sustainable growth of the Wellington region".

The WRS Forum as it is known is the region's governance body for the project.

All of the region's councils have two members and an alternate on the Forum. A non-council person, Murray McCaw, chosen for his independence and knowledge of the Wellington region chairs the Forum. Murray also chairs the Strategic Partners Forum that will meet as the strategy project develops.

The WRS Forum moves around all of the councils of the metropolitan area, and has already met at Upper Hutt City, Porirua City and

The first working papers from Phase 2 are now in the final

stages of preparation. These working papers will be formally presented to the WRS Forum meeting on the 16th of December. Shortly after they will be posted to the website (under construction) - www.wrs.govt.nz is the likely domain name, but watch this space – we will formally notify the web page once it is up and running.

The working papers available shortly are:

Working paper 1: Map of ideas and report - this will not be formally published but is available at the WRS office.

Working paper 2: Information inventory for the Wellington Regional Strategy – this is a record and summary of over 200 documents on Wellington or related to the development of the strategy. It is kept in the WRS office, on the 9th floor at Greater Wellington Regional Council. All consultants carrying out work on the Strategy must ensure they are familiar with the information already held.

Working paper 3: Regional stocktake of the Wellington region 2004 – this is 115 page document covering a wide range of attributes and factors which will be important for the development of the Strategy.

Working paper 4: Regional community issues and outcomes investigated – a synthesis of the adopted community outcomes of the individual councils – to assist in setting the framework for the Strategy.

Working paper 5: Successful cities – lessons for the Wellington region – an internationally commissioned report into the attributes of successful cities along with four cases studies of successful cities. The paper also identifies the attributes of successful regional strategy making. The authors are Melbourne based economists and planners, Macroplan.

Working paper 6: Economic futures for the Wellington region: an exploration of possibilities, risk and uncertainties. This paper is the result of an early exploration of economic issues for the region and was assisted by the Wellington based consulting firm Infometrics.

Working paper 7: Global trends and critical uncertainties for the Wellington region. As part of understanding the economic issues facing the region an internationally commissioned thought piece was provided by Delaney Associates, professional futurists based in Canberra, who provide futures thinking to the Australian and New Zealand Governments.

Working paper 8: Demographical influences on the growth of the Wellington region. This working paper provides specially commissioned and up to date regional population and household formation forecast for use in the Strategy development. It reflects on recent upswing in international migration patterns. It provides a detailed analysis of where people in the region come from including the movement of people within the region. This level of analysis has never been done before in this region.

These are all important foundation working papers which set the context for the development of the strategy, ensuring we are fully appraised of existing information and work programmes in the region, and give an appropriate international context to Wellington's future directions.

Copies of the working papers can also be obtained from vivienne.mckevitt@gw.govt.nz after 16 December.

The regional stocktake canvases and pulls together important information

from many sources into a single "reference" document that will be used many times as the Strategy is developed. The stocktake covers areas such as population growth, household income,

educational attainment, the economy and the state of our infrastructure.

Some of the significant information covers areas such as:

- That the Wellington metropolitan region¹ has the most educated workforce in New Zealand and related to that
- That the Wellington metropolitan region has the second highest average household income in New Zealand
- That the Wellington metropolitan region has the second best morning peak time travel performance of all Australasian larger cities slightly behind Canberra and related to this
- That the Wellington metropolitan region has the highest percentage use of public transport at morning peak of all New Zealand largest cities

Other interesting and significant information is contained in the 100 page plus working paper.

Coming events

Key dates over the next two months are:

- WRS Forum meeting - 2pm, 16 December at Hutt City Council (open to public)
- Briefing of region's councillors on the progress of the WRS - 2pm, 21 December at Wellington City Council (by invitation only).
- WRS Forum meeting - 2pm, 24 February at Greater Wellington Regional Council (open to the public)

Work to be commissioned over the next six weeks includes: housing demands, social capital and workforce areas, business and employment, capacity for growth in the region, and growth tools and techniques.

¹ The Wellington metropolitan region excludes the Wairarapa

People involved with the Strategy development

A key group working on the Strategy is the Project Executive Group. This group has the responsibility for much of the behind the scenes work of the Strategy and the WRS Forum. It comprises officers from the six councils and Positively Wellington Business. The members of that group are:

Role/Organisation	Name
Project Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adrienne Young Cooper
Greater Wellington	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Allard• Jane Bradbury
Wellington City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ernst Zollner• Andrew McKenzie• Stephen Rainbow
Hutt City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kim Kelly• Stuart Duncan
Upper Hutt City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dale Meredith• Brendan Hogan
Kapiti Coast District	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gael Ferguson• Kevin Jefferies
Porirua City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sue Veart• Richard Peterson
Positively Wellington Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annette Gittos• Claire Van Oporp
Ara Tahi Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Position vacant