

Wellington Regional Strategy



In association with Positively Wellington Business

STAKEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2: MARCH 2005

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 (regional iwi advisory committee). The Strategy is to be adopted by the councils in mid 2006 and launched in July 2006.

The project goal is:

"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".

Significant progress for Phase 2, Research & Investigations.

The WRS project is on track to deliver a 'Growth Framework' by July 2005. This forms a basis for broad based community consultation. Aspects of the work programme have taken longer than expected however good progress is being made, with valuable insights into Wellington now and in the future now available.



Regional Strategy Forum workshop in December 2004. Brainstorming issues around regional vision and direction.

The WRS Forum is the region's governance body for the WRS Project.

All of the region's councils have two members and an alternate on the Forum. A proposal for the Wairarapa to become a full member of the project is currently being explored.

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 of key private sector and other organisations.

WRS Forums are held at different venues around the region. Meetings to date have been in Upper Hutt, Porirua City, Hutt City and Wellington. Meetings of the Forum are open to the public.

What has happened so far?

Regional Forum Meetings: The WRS Forum has met on five occasions to establish the project, focus on the issues and opportunities facing the region, and receive detailed information to inform decision-making. A workshop session has also been held in December 2004 to explore issues and ideas.

CEO Group Meetings: Monthly meetings of the region's territorial authority CEOs are occurring to steer the WRS project and provide thinking on strategy direction and implementation issues.

Project Executive Group workshop and meetings: Senior officers from each member authority provide hands on guidance and input to specifying and developing aspects of the WRS project. A series of 'workstreams' are operating to develop briefs, commission external work, review or develop components and generally support the project.

Technical Papers: Nine technical working papers have been produced to inform the WRS project development. These are available on the

project website (www.wrs.govt.nz) from 25 March 2005.

Project Management Changes: In recognition of the complex linkages and ongoing demands of the WRS project, the Project Director role has been boosted to 4 days a week. Adrienne Young Cooper's other business interests preclude her involvement at this level of time commitment. She now takes on an overview role advising the WRS project.

Graham Spargo assumed the Project Director role from 24th February 2005.

Stakeholder contact and project alignment: Over recent months attention has focused on ensuring alignment and strong linkages are established with other processes and initiatives affecting WRS outcomes.

An outcome of this has been agreement for the *Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy* review timeline to be held back to enable better alignment with the WRS. Ongoing dialogue is also occurring in relation to the Western Corridor study to promote integration to the extent available due to previously agreed delivery schedules for this project.

A further area for attention is integration with central government's Sustainable Cities initiatives via Ministry for the Environment. In addition links are being addressed with other central government projects around economic development and strengthening our nation's human capital.

Strategic Partners Workshop: 50 of Wellington's key stakeholder organisations and business interests meet on 28 February 2005 to consider how best to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for the Wellington region. A range of key issues, constraints, opportunities and 'big ideas' emerged from the session. These will help inform the development of the 'Growth Framework' that will be delivered in July 2005 for public consultation. Details of the Strategic Partners workshop findings are available on our website from 25 March 2005 at www.wrs.govt.nz

Growth Framework Outline: A conceptual framework for discussing and debating Wellington Regional Strategy options and implementation alternatives was agreed by the CEO's Forum in January 2005 and WRS Forum at its February 2005 meeting.

What is coming up?



Developing a vision from stakeholders' aspirations, ideas and visions for Wellington's future. An example of working group thinking from workshops in December 2004 using photos and text.

Publishing of technical papers: Working papers produced to inform the WRS process have been received by the WRS Forum and are now in a form for public release via the project website www.wrs.govt.nz from 25 March 2005.

Growth Framework development for July 2005: The focus for the next 3 months is production of a document suitable for public consultation that sets out ideas on direction for Wellington's regional growth (economic and land use). It is envisaged this will be around 20 to 30 pages of highly accessible and informative content.

Project Office workspace: To assist in ensuring the success of the WRS project a new dedicated workspace has been provided by Wellington City Council enabling WRS team members to work together in the same space. This builds on the strong support for the project already demonstrated, in particular Greater Wellington's generosity to date with the existing project office space provided.

What have we got? Where are we headed? Role of the technical papers.

Informed decision-making requires good quality base information. Technical working papers for the WRS are being produced for this purpose.

The following working papers are available from the Project Office and will be accessible from the project website from 25 March 2005.

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.

Working paper 3: Regional stocktake of the Wellington region 2004 – identifies 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 - attributes of successful cities along with four cases studies of successful cities. The paper also identifies the attributes of successful regional strategy making.

Working paper 6: Economic futures for the Wellington region: an exploration of possibilities, risk and uncertainties.

Working paper 7: Global trends and critical uncertainties for the Wellington region. As part of understanding the economic issues facing the region.

Working paper 8: Demographical influences on the growth of the Wellington region.

Working paper 9: Human Capital examining the opportunities and constraints around people skills, talent and productivity development as it affects the Wellington region.

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

Demographic Influences

A detailed review of demographic changes facing the Wellington region has raised interesting questions about the nature and location of investment and development. Key findings are:

Population Growth: Wellington regional growth has been historically strong over recent years, in large part due to a surge in migration due to a 'post-September 11' effect.

Projections are for growth to occur under low, medium and high assumptions to 2021 ranging from +670 to +59,180 persons. Additional demographic projections have been received from Statistics New Zealand which suggest a more 'bullish' grow picture which increases the medium figures to closer to the 'high' series set out below. Further evaluation work is under way to consider the implications of this.

Year	Low	Medium	High
2001	385520	385520	385520
Change from 2001			
2021	+670	+30450	+59180
2041	-37530	+24810	+87960

Beyond 2021 there is potential for varying degrees of population contraction under Low and Medium assumptions. These relate to factors described below.

Distribution of Growth: Population growth will not be uniformly distributed around the region under current 'status quo' trends. Wellington City and Kapiti Coast are likely to receive significant growth pressures, while static populations or

even decline is possible for the other parts of Wellington.

Population Ageing: A powerful force at work within the Wellington region, and elsewhere in the developed world, is that of population ageing. By 2021 the 'baby boomer' generation is just about to reach the current retirement age. These trends will influence a range of preferences and service demands, and affect housing and transport patterns. Population ageing is a key driver of population projections suggesting static or even declining populations in some parts of the Wellington region.

Household Size To Decrease: The trend towards decreasing average numbers of persons per household is linked to population ageing and changing household formation patterns. All parts of the Wellington region are anticipated to demonstrate this, the consequence of which are higher demand levels for new housing that is suitable for fewer persons (i.e. more 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings). This also brings into place 'locational choice' decisions of the type of living environment that appeal to people in their later years.

Critical Role of Migration: A major factor influencing Wellington's growth path is that of migration. Strong swings over time in inward and outward migration reflect the relative attractiveness and availability of jobs in Wellington compared to other destinations. This relates to how successful Wellington is at retaining our young people, and also the level of inward migration and retention of these people.

Increasing Ethnic Diversity: Most parts of the Wellington regional population will continue to become more diverse. Porirua and Hutt City are projected to show strong growth in Pacific Island and Maori persons, while Wellington City is likely to have a significantly higher Asian population.

Demographic Trends report by MERA consulting

Coming events

Key dates over the next two months are:

- WRS Forum meeting - 2pm, 31st March at Kapiti Coast D.C. (open to the public)
- WRS Forum meeting – Wellington City, 2pm, April 28th (open to public)

Work commissioned

The following technical papers are under development:

- housing demands,
- business, retail and institutional needs
- capacity for growth in the region, and
- growth tools and techniques.

An evaluation is currently underway on evaluating and synthesising the technical material. An update will be provided in the next newsletter on how we propose for this to be achieved.

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 is comprised of 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">• Graham Spargo
Project Advisor	<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 Opdorp
Ara Tahi Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graham Cameron