

# Greater Wellington Regional Council

## Our Profile

### Quality for Life



greater WELLINGTON  
THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Greater Wellington promotes Quality for Life by ensuring our environment is protected while meeting the economic, cultural and social needs of the community.

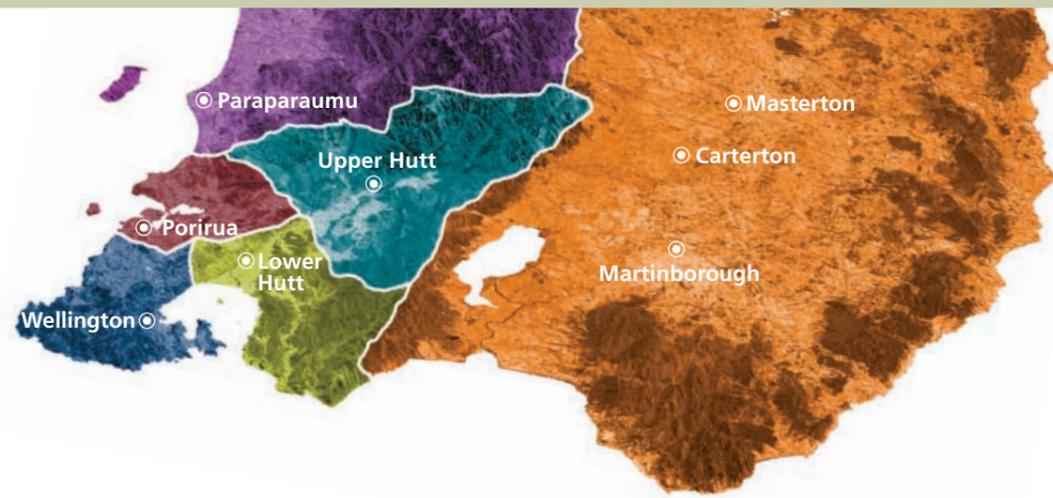
Our specific responsibilities include environment management, flood protection and land management, provision of regional parks, public transport planning and funding, and metropolitan water supply.

### Some facts about the Wellington Region

- The region covers a land area of 813,005 hectares and a maritime area of 786,700 hectares. There are 497 kilometres of coastline.
- The population of the region is 445,400 (Statistics NZ, estimated resident population, June 2002).
- Greater Wellington manages 320 kilometres of river channels and 280 kilometres of stopbanks. We are responsible for one of the largest flood protection schemes in New Zealand.
- Around 30 million passenger journeys are made on the region's public transport system each year.
- Greater Wellington collects, treats and delivers about 150 million litres of high quality water each day, on average, to the city councils of metropolitan Wellington.
- Greater Wellington manages possum control programmes on approximately 500,000 hectares of land in the region each year.
- Greater Wellington manages 50,000 hectares of parks and forests.



# The Wellington Region



## Regional, city or district?

Local government in New Zealand is represented by regional and territorial (city or district) councils. Regional councils like Greater Wellington cover **larger areas** than territorial councils. Natural resources, and their use, often cross local boundaries so regional councils manage these resources for the benefit of the whole region. City and district councils are responsible for essential community services within their own areas, such as road maintenance, land-use and subdivisions, community health, and community services (libraries, swimming pools and recreation areas).

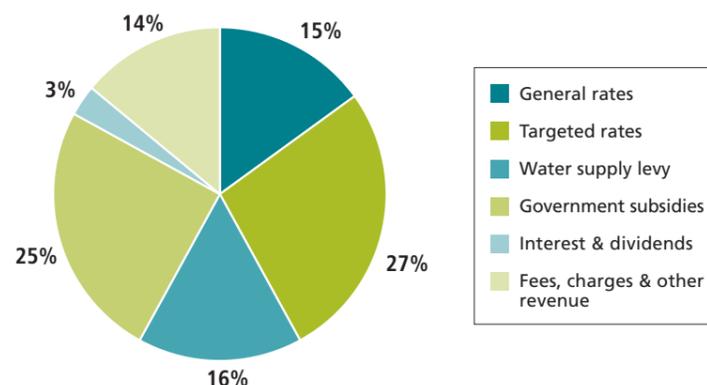
## Councillors

The Greater Wellington Regional Council is a statutory body made up of 13 regional councillors, representing six constituencies – Wellington (5 representatives), Kapiti (1), Porirua (1), Lower Hutt (3), Upper Hutt (1), and Wairarapa (2). Regional councillors are publicly elected in the local government elections held every three years. The chairperson of Greater Wellington is elected by the councillors.

Various acts of Parliament, such as the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991 provide the framework to enable Greater Wellington to undertake its activities. Councillors decide the overall policies while management decide how the activities should be carried out.

The Council and its committees meet on a six weekly cycle to receive reports from council staff, debate issues and decide on policy. In general, meetings are open to the public and meeting dates are advertised in local newspapers.

## Where our funds come from



Your rates help fund the services provided by Greater Wellington. But there are many other sources of funding including the water supply levy to the four cities, and government subsidies, primarily for public transport.

## What we do

### Biosecurity

Biosecurity is about protecting our environment, economy and way of life from the harmful impacts of pests and diseases. Greater Wellington works with landowners to target regional pest plants and animals and helps the rural economy by controlling possums to stop the spread of Bovine Tb.

### Emergency management

We co-ordinate the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group for the region. We work together to minimise the potential effects of emergencies, prepare ourselves and the community, respond to emergencies and help the community to recover.

### Environment

The region's natural resources – land, water, air, energy – sustain our lives. We help people to use these resources appropriately and sustainably.

### Flood protection

The region's many rivers mean homes, farmland, jobs, livelihoods and property can be at risk from flooding. We help communities protect themselves from the effects of flooding.

### Harbours

We look after the navigational safety of all ships and boats in Wellington and Porirua Harbours and around the regional coastline. We promote safe boating behaviour, provide navigation lights and aids, and provide emergency response in case of marine oil spills.

### Land management

About 40 per cent of the Wellington region is erosion-prone hill country. Soil erosion can be prevented or reduced by improving the way the land is used, perhaps by planting trees, by changing management systems, or by allowing native bush to grow in areas that are at risk from erosion. We work with landowners to control soil erosion.

### Parks & forests

We maintain a network of regional parks and forests, enjoyed by thousands of people every year. We also look after their environmental and historical features.

### Pollution control

We maintain a 24-hour incident response service, conduct environmental assessments of industrial and commercial sites, and maintain a register of sites with hazardous industries or activities.

### Transport

We fund bus and train services, we plan the roading network and we build public transport infrastructure. Greater Wellington spends about \$30 million each year subsidising public transport.

### Water supply

Greater Wellington collects and treats all the drinking water used in Wellington, Hutt, Upper Hutt and Porirua. We are the region's 'wholesale' water supplier, delivering high-quality treated water to the main reservoirs in each city, from where the four city councils supply homes and businesses.

## Take 10 – Quality for Life

People living in the region all want a good quality for life. This may mean different things to different people. Greater Wellington has identified ten “quality for life elements” to describe how we can contribute. We have also said what we want to achieve in each of these areas.

 Biodiversity	Healthy ecosystems
 Water	Enough water for all, today and in the future Clean and healthy rivers, streams and coasts
 Air	Clean, fresh air
 Energy	Sustainable energy use
 Land	Healthy and productive soils
 Transport	Ease of travel
 Waste	Minimal waste
 Recreation & Parks	Accessible, natural environment
 Safety & Hazards	People feeling safe
 Community	People enjoying and contributing to the quality of life in our region

■ For more information about our work in each of these areas see [www.gw.govt.nz/AW/tenyearplan/elements/](http://www.gw.govt.nz/AW/tenyearplan/elements/)