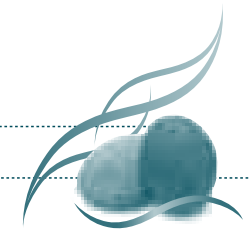


Statement of Commitments





COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Hutt City Council is committed to contributing towards a vibrant and diverse city, to providing accessible and high quality leisure activities and facilities, and to supporting a community that is safe and connected. These commitments take into account the social and cultural outcomes that the community has indicated it would like to see the city achieve in the long term.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Making Hutt City a great place to live, work and play
- Providing opportunities for community involvement in important decisions
- Recognising the different communities of Hutt City, and working with these communities to make sure they keep their unique character
- Supporting and facilitating a safer community
- Identifying community needs and facilitating responses
- Protecting and nurturing the natural environment so that all citizens and future generations can enjoy it
- Developing strategies that encourage sustainable economic development
- Making sure all residents have access to high quality services and facilities
- Encouraging a strong, enterprising and diverse business sector that provides jobs and opportunities for all citizens
- Providing the opportunity for stimulating knowledge and information for the personal growth and education of all citizens.

OUR ROLE

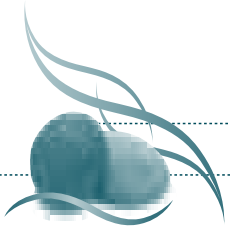
Council's principal role is to set policies that contribute to achieving outcomes. We will represent the views of the community and make decisions that allow Hutt City to grow and prosper.

We will also:

- Faithfully represent the broad wishes of the community
- Make decisions in an open and transparent manner
- Work in the best interests of the community
- Promote Hutt City regionally, nationally and internationally.

YOUR ROLE

Council is accountable to you, its residents. So we provide the opportunity for you give feedback, and to be informed of Council activities and have input into decisions. You can do this by taking part in consultation processes and having your say when decisions on projects and activities are being made that may affect you or the community in which you live, work or play.



COMMITMENT TO OUR ENVIRONMENT

Hutt City Council is committed to ensuring the city's environment is clean, healthy, attractive and sustainable. Council's commitment to the environment embraces the environmental outcomes that the city's residents identified as essential. Council has a number of city-wide and local initiatives that impact directly and indirectly on the environment. Some activities are focused towards providing community services and others involve regulatory responsibilities. These activities can also affect the environment beyond the city's boundaries, for example, the water quality of Wellington Harbour.

Greater Wellington – The Regional Council, the Ministry for the Environment, the Department of Conservation, environmental groups, and other organisations also play a pivotal role in making sure the city's environment is maintained to a high standard. All activities are undertaken with a view to enhancing the environment, controlling the adverse effects of refuse disposal, wastewater, invasive animals and plants, and ensuring delivery of Council's services is in a manner consistent with safeguarding public health and the sustainable management of resources. Council will continue to monitor and report on the social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of these activities on a regular basis. In carrying out Council's activities a commitment will be given to protect and enhance the city's indigenous biodiversity.

WASTEWATER

Now that the new wastewater treatment plant is operating and the discharge has been removed from the Wainuiomata River, Council is continuing to improve the level of service by reducing the wet weather loading of the wastewater system and increasing system reliability.

WASTE AND WASTE MINIMISATION

Significant effort will be directed towards minimising waste within Hutt City. This will include education and other programmes to promote the recovery, reuse, and recycling of materials, as well as a review of the current Waste Management Plan.

Development of a new stage of Silverstream Landfill is underway, and will provide a facility for disposal of residual waste, with an expected life of around 50 years. The new facility is expected to open late in 2007.

URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

Further physical enhancements are planned for the inner city and suburban areas. The focus will be on managing and designing a more attractive, safe, and vibrant urban environment. Where there is reconstruction planned for sections of kerb, channels and footpaths, environmental enhancements are also undertaken. This work generally involves the installation of trees, small garden areas and decorative lights. Consultation with residents ensures community input into final plans.

BIODIVERSITY

There are ongoing programmes aimed at protecting rare and endangered plants, and eliminating pest plant species within the city. Native plants are used to revegetate sites that have been invaded by pest species. Residential reserve boundaries will continue to be cleared of gorse and blackberry. Cleared areas are replanted with more fire-resistant, bird-attracting native plants. Council is also committed to the eradication of animal pests, which helps protect key ecosystems. This includes the continuation of the award winning "Possum Busters" programme.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

There are ongoing programmes and projects designed to raise awareness of environmental issues within a specific context. Council undertakes programmes, projects and campaigns such as the Enviroschools sustainability programme for schools, and business sustainability programmes. Council also supports and undertakes environmental projects in conjunction with schools and environmental groups. Council provides co-ordination and support for its communities with projects to improve and beautify community areas. This is done through programmes such as: Keep Hutt City Beautiful, Graffiti in Our City and Drains to Streams. A city-wide clean-up is also undertaken during Keep Hutt City Beautiful/Clean Up New Zealand week.

ENERGY

Council is going to sign up to become an Energywise Council and will be working towards becoming more energy efficient.