

12 April 2017

Annual Plan
Freepost 3156
GWRC
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Re: Greater Wellington Regional Council Draft Annual Plan 2017-18

This submission is from the Architectural Centre, an incorporated society dating from 1946, which represents both professionals and non-professionals interested in the promotion of good design.

We have the following comments to make regarding the Greater Wellington Regional Council Draft Annual Plan 2017-18 consultation.

1. We support a number of the council's current priorities including investment in:
 - i. improving public transport
 - ii. increasing public transport patronage
 - iii. supporting sustainable transport modes, including active modes (e.g. cycleways and walkways, bus and bike safety workshops for drivers)
 - iv. resilient regional infrastructure
 - v. climate change mitigation
 - vi. climate change adaption
2. We support the council's proposals to:
 - i. improve Wellington's resilience in relation to water supply. This appears to us to be an urgent priority.
 - ii. flood protection in the Hutt Valley through progressive purchase of properties as a means of managed retreat. We wonder if this is also a strategy that needs to be progressively implemented in relation to areas vulnerable to sea level rises due to climate change?
3. We support the council's intention to improve Wellington's public transport but we have concerns regarding the council's current priorities and thinking regarding this. Specifically:



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- i. we do not support the replacement of trolley buses with diesel or diesel hybrids. We consider this to be a retro-grade step in relation to GWRC stated aims of sustainability.
- ii. we cannot believe that integrated ticketing and transfers have again been delayed. We consider these to be important steps in creating a fairer fare structure and encouraging more people to use public transport by making the cost of using the network more viable for a greater number of people. We note that the Christchurch metrocard allows a two hour transfer, and suggest that if Christchurch can manage this we should be able to too.

4. In addition:

- i. we encourage the council to strenuously lobby the government to increase the land transport fund allocations for public transport and active transport modes.
- ii. following the recent government decision to support Auckland light rail, we strongly encourage GWRC to get LRT on the government's agenda. Consequently we would like to see an allocation in the annual plan for future LRT.
- iii. we encourage the council, when it reviews its PT fare structure to consider ways of attracting greater use of PT by families and couples, given that car travel is much cheaper for groups of people than PT.
- iv. we note the statement that the GWRC is planning for climate change adaption. We also strongly encourage the council to also invest strategies to reduce the region's carbon emissions. Once carbon dioxide is in the atmosphere it can affect the climate for thousands of years. We are already experiencing increased variability and severity of weather, and this will only get worse. We must do everything we can to reduce carbon emissions. This is immensely more important than can easily be expressed.
- v. we do not have sufficient information to make a detailed comment regarding the proposed new Masterton building for GWRC, but suggest that it would be prudent to consider strengthening the existing building prior to committing to a new building. The rationale for this would include sustainability in relation to re-use, and if relevant, issues to do with Masterton's modernist architectural heritage.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the GWRC Draft Annual Plan 2017-18. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



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