

# Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index (GPI): 2001-2010

June 2011

Greater Wellington and all the territorial authorities in the region are partners in the development of the Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index (GPI).



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## Executive Summary

### Introduction

For well over half a century Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been the most commonly used methodology for measuring the well-being of nations. However, as GDP is mainly concerned with the total amount of cash flowing in an economy there are flaws in relying on it to tell us anything about other aspects of well-being. Internationally there is now considerable interest in developing wider measures of progress and well-being that do not rely solely on GDP. One of the emerging new measures is the Genuine Progress Index (GPI), which is an accounting system that attempts to measure whether a nation's or community's growth, increased production of goods, and expanding services have actually resulted in the improvement of the well-being of the people in that nation or community. In 2007, as part of the development of the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS), a decision was made to develop a GPI for the Wellington region.

The Wellington region GPI (WR-GPI) is a monitoring framework for assessing progress towards the well-being goals of the WRS. The monitoring framework currently includes 86 indicators of well-being which span four aspects of well-being – economic, environmental, social and cultural. This Wellington region GPI report tracks the current condition (for the 2010 year) and trends (2001-2010) in 83 of the indicators of well-being included in the monitoring framework (information for three indicators is currently not available), providing a snapshot of the Wellington region's overall state of well-being. It also provides Wellington residents with a high level profile of the region's well-being and how it is tracking over time from 2001 to 2010.

### Main messages

The WR-GPI enables us to put some measures around the quality of life and well-being of residents in the region through counting beneficial activities as positive and harmful activities as negative. In the WR-GPI monitoring framework, regional well-being is made up of the four aspects of well-being, which incorporate the nine WRS community outcomes.

This WR-GPI report of well-being shows a mixture of both positive and negative trends in the Wellington region's economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being. The overall regional GPI is around 5% higher in 2010 compared to 2001 and has gradually increased over this time. This result suggests that the overall state of well-being in the Wellington region is in an improving condition, though results across the indicators show the well-being condition and progress in some areas needs attention.

The improvements made to the state of the region's overall well-being are due to progress made in aspects of the region's economic and environmental well-being over the study period. The GPI's for economic well-being which is made up of indicators from two community outcome areas - prosperous community and entrepreneurial and innovative community - and environmental well-being, which is made up of one community outcome area – healthy environment - were all higher in 2010 than 2001.

Over the study period, even though the economic well-being and community outcome GPI's have increased between 2001 and 2010, there has been a notable decline over the last few years as the effects of the global financial crisis impact at the regional level. However, the environmental well-being and healthy environment GPI's gradually increased each year over the 2001 to 2010 period, showing that overall, the condition of the Wellington region's environment is improving.

Little progress was made to the regions social and cultural well-being from 2001 to 2010. While this restricted the progress of the regions overall well-being, within the social and cultural well-being areas there was a mix of both positive and negative trends.

The social well-being GPI is made up of indicators from five community outcome areas— healthy community, connected community, sense of place, quality lifestyle and regional foundations. The social well-being, sense of place and quality lifestyle GPI's exhibited little change over the study period, but there were increases to the connected community GPI and decreases to the regional foundations and healthy community GPI. While the connected community results are encouraging, the decline in the regions health since 2001 is of concern. Good health enables people to contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of the region, so is vital to well-being. In the region we are generally positive about our health and our life expectancy has improved. However, we have not made progress on any indicators reflecting the way we live in terms of smoking, drinking, weight and physical activity which are known to increase the risk of many chronic diseases.

The cultural well-being GPI is made up of indicators from one community outcome - strong and tolerant community. While little progress has been made over the 2001 to 2010 period, as a region our cultural well-being is relatively high. Overall, residents have a high level of support available from family and friends during difficult times, and the region is home to people from diverse cultures and lifestyles.

The WR-GPI is a long term monitoring tool and as a region we are in the early stages of development and data collection. There have been numerous challenges to get to where we are today. Over time, the data available for monitoring our progress will increase making it easier to monitor any changes to our well-being. While the results cannot always show what is driving these changes, it can help identify adverse trends at an early stage, and if necessary point us to where there needs to be further analysis to help understand the changes and how we address them.

### **Next steps**

The WR-GPI monitoring framework will be subject to continuous revision, improvement in methodologies, and inclusion of additional variables. It will continue to evolve in form and content with further research, the development of new methods of measurement, and the availability of improved data sources. If available, indicator data will be updated on an annual basis with progress on our overall well-being, and across the four aspects of well-being and the nine community outcomes reported biennially.



The goal is for the WR-GPI to be a set of accounts that measures progress across all areas of life and is based on the data and evidence provided by the indicator framework. To date the majority of work on the WR-GPI has focused on the development of an indicator framework, but work is also underway to establish a full-cost accounting<sup>1</sup> methodology that will be used to develop accounts of the region's progress.

## **Content of Report**

This *Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index (GPI) Report* is the first assessment of the economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being conditions and trends for the Wellington region. It covers the period 2001 to 2010. This Wellington region GPI report provides some background material on the establishment of the WRS; the decision to develop a GPI as a framework to measure the region's progress towards well-being; and tracks the current condition (for the year 2010) and trends (2001-2010) in the regions overall well-being, and across the four aspects of well-being and the nine WRS community outcomes.

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<sup>1</sup> Full-cost accounting describes how goods and services should be priced to reflect their true costs (including environmental, cultural and social costs). With full-cost accounting, natural resources would be defined as assets and environmental degradation such as the depletion of soils or the destruction of wetlands, would be defined as costs

# 1. Background

## 1.1 Wellington Regional Strategy

The Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) is a sustainable economic growth strategy that was developed by the region's nine local authorities,<sup>2</sup> in conjunction with central government and the region's business, education, research and voluntary sector interests (through a body known as the Wellington Regional Strategy Forum).

In 2004-2005, projections for the Wellington region out to 2025 revealed that certain factors relating to the ongoing prosperity and development of the region were not looking as positive as other regions. These were mostly in terms of a projected shortage of 25-45 year olds, relatively low regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the employment rate was not going to be as strong as many other regions. There were also going to be significant changes in the traditional manufacturing and industrial base of the region.

Research was commissioned to assess what mechanisms might counteract the above projections for the region. From this work the WRS was developed and adopted in 2007. The Strategy incorporated both economic development and good regional form initiatives to help realise our economic potential. The WRS aims to enhance the region's physical form by addressing such issues as transport, housing, urban design and open spaces, which are all the things that contribute to good quality of life. Attracting and retaining talented people to the region requires these elements to be working well.

The regional economy is influenced by the operation of global markets, central government and individual businesses. The WRS is focused on regional interventions or actions that can realistically make a difference. Research suggests that relatively modest levels of better-coordinated investment can reap multi-million dollar returns. The WRS targets these matters for attention and action. The WRS is not a detailed work plan. It provides an overview of the opportunities that exist to lift the region's economic performance. The WRS also seeks improvement in the region's environmental, social and cultural performance.

The three major outcomes of the WRS are: sustainable economic growth, good regional form and quality of life. Sustainable economic growth is not about growth for growth's sake. It is about a level of growth that enables the region to enjoy a sound economic base at the same time as a high quality of life for its citizens. Good quality of life is about attracting and keeping people in the region, attracting young people with families, and attracting entrepreneurs that can help drive aspects of economic sustainability and growth.

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<sup>2</sup> The nine local authorities in the Wellington region include Greater Wellington Regional Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Carterton District Council, Masterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council.

## 1.2. Genuine Progress Index

### 1.2.1. GDP – A proxy for well-being

For well over half a century the well-being of nations has been measured and compared by using GDP. GDP is mainly concerned with the total amount of cash flowing in an economy. The more GDP rises, the better the overall welfare of the nation or community is assumed to be. However there are flaws in relying on it to tell us anything about aspects of our well-being other than economic elements. Increased spending on hospitals, physicians, pharmaceuticals, and other illness or obesity-related costs, is currently counted as a contribution to our prosperity and therefore our well-being. The same is true for production and spending on crime, overwork, toxic pollution, war, car accidents, natural disasters, resource depletion, and other liabilities. So long as money is being spent GDP will continue to grow, regardless of whether that spending signifies an improvement or decline in well-being.

Simon Kuznets, one of the key architects of the concept of the GDP, notes in his very first report to the US Congress in 1934:

*“... the welfare of a nation [can] scarcely be inferred from a measure of national income...”*

As GDP makes no distinction between economic activities that create benefit and those that cause harm, it can send misleading signals to policy makers when it is used as a measure of progress or societal well-being. As a consequence, disease prevention and health promotion initiatives, including for example, those designed to reduce the current high levels of obesity, frequently do not receive the same policy attention and funding support accorded to economic stimulus measures.

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy said in a speech:

*“Gross National Product includes air pollution and ambulances to clear our highways from carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and jails for the people who break them. It grows with the production of napalm and missiles and nuclear warheads.... It includes... the broadcasting of television programs which glorify violence to sell goods to our children. (But) there is much that it does not comprehend. It does not allow for the health of our families, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It is indifferent to the decency of our factories and the safety of our streets alike.”*

### 1.2.2. Global interest in moving away from a reliance on GDP

Internationally there is considerable interest in developing wider measures of progress and well-being that don't rely solely on GDP (Talberth, J., et al., 2007; Neumayer, 2000; Colman, 2004; Anielski, 2001; Michalos, A., et al., 2010). At the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Istanbul World Forum in 2007, a declaration was signed to commit to measuring and fostering the progress of societies in all dimensions, with the ultimate goal of improving policy making, democracy and citizens' well-being. It was signed by the European Commission, OECD, Organisation of the Islamic Conference, United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. One of the statements recognises:

*“an emerging consensus on the need to undertake the measurement of societal progress in every country, going beyond conventional economic measures such as GDP per capita.”*

In November 2007, the European Commission, European Parliament, Club of Rome, OECD and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) hosted the high-level conference “Beyond GDP” with the objectives of clarifying which indices are most appropriate to measure progress, and how these can best be integrated into the decision-making process and taken up by public debate.

In 2008, French President Sarkozy set up the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress. Its aim is to:

*“identify the limits of GDP as an indicator of economic performance and social progress, to consider additional information required for the production of a more relevant picture, to discuss how to present this information in the most appropriate way, and to check the feasibility of measurement tools proposed by the Commission.”*

### 1.2.3. Merits of a Genuine Progress Index

One of the emerging new measures of progress and well-being is the Genuine Progress Index (GPI). The GPI is an accounting system that has emerged from the fields of green economics. It does not intend to replace GDP, but challenge its use as a measure of progress and well-being.

GPI is an attempt to measure whether a nation's or a region's growth, increased production of goods, and expanding services have actually resulted in the improvement of the welfare (or well-being) of the people in the region or country. GPI advocates claim that it can more reliably measure economic progress, as it distinguishes between growth that signifies an improvement in well-being and growth that signifies a decline in well-being.

If a river is polluted, if population health declines and if crime rates increase, from an accounting perspective these can be regarded as a depreciation of natural, human and social capital respectively. On the other hand, environmental restoration, health improvements, and a strengthening of social networks and supports can be seen as investments in those capitals.

For example, the GPI counts the costs of obesity and its consequent adverse health impacts as a liability and loss that should be deducted from, rather than added to, measures of economic prosperity. The GPI explicitly values health, equity, educational attainment, and peace in society as valuable social assets, and regards higher rates of ill health as signifying a deterioration or depreciation of that human and social capital. The GPI gives explicit value to the economic contributions of unpaid household and volunteer work that are ignored in market-based measures. It counts crime, pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, natural resource depletion and sickness, as costs, not gains, to the economy. GPI assigns explicit value to the health and education of the population, to their free time, and to the natural wealth inherent in forests, fish stocks, water resources, and soils. It counts a smaller ecological footprint as a sign of progress.

The economic valuations that are usually undertaken as part of the GPI function can be seen as a step to overcome the conventional tendency to undervalue the services of unpaid labour, leisure time, natural resources, healthy and safe communities, and other hidden or “free” assets, in order to make their contribution to prosperity clearly visible.

The GPI generally consists of two parts:

- The development of indicators and measures of progress.
- Assessments of the economic value of non-market social and environmental assets not generally valued in the conventional economic statistics.

The most well-known GPIs are those that have been developed for the provinces of Nova Scotia and Alberta, in Canada (Colman, 2004; Anielski, 2001). A national-level GPI has also been developed for New Zealand and a regional-level GPI has been developed for Auckland and Waikato.

### **1.3. Development of a GPI for the Wellington region**

During consultation on the development of the WRS, the public said that prosperity in the Wellington region meant more than monetary wealth. The public expressed how it was about quality of life for all members of our society and that economic growth should not be sought at the expense of the community or the environment. The WRS Forum agreed that what was needed for the region was quality of life that comes from sustainable economic growth.

As a result of the consultation and guided by the direction of the Local Government Act (2002), the Forum decided to use a framework that measures our progress across all areas of life. In particular, it would be used to measure our economic, environmental, social and cultural “performance”, as well as the overall well-being of the region.

Following adoption of the Strategy in 2007, the WRS Office took responsibility for the project and with the support of all the other councils set up a GPI Working Group. The Working Group comprises representatives from each of the region’s councils<sup>3</sup> as well as the Ministry of Transport and Capital and Coast District Health Board. After considerable research the Working Group decided that the region’s GPI would measure the economic, environmental, social and cultural aspects of well-being in the region, with the framework based on the nine WRS community outcomes, which are identified in the WRS as the well-being goals of the region. The WRS community outcomes were developed through public consultation to ascertain what people thought was important for the Wellington region.

The Local Government Act does not provide definitions for the four aspects of well-being but allows councils to develop their own definitions relevant to the local context. The definitions used for the four aspects of well-being and a description of each of the nine community outcomes can be found in Appendix 1.

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<sup>3</sup> Greater Wellington Regional Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Carterton District Council, Masterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council.

## 2. Methodology

For more information on the background and methodology of the WR-GPI please refer to the paper “The approach to the Wellington region genuine progress index (WR-GPI) 2001-2010” which can be downloaded from: [www.gpiwellingtonregion.govt.nz](http://www.gpiwellingtonregion.govt.nz)

### 2.1. Indicator framework

The goal is for the WR-GPI to be a set of accounts that are based on an indicator framework that measures progress across all areas of life. To achieve this goal the development of the WR-GPI comprises two parts:

- an indicator framework that assesses progress and trends over time, and
- a set of accounts that assess the economic value of non-market social, cultural and environmental assets that relate to the data and evidence provided by the indicator framework.

The majority of work to date on the WR-GPI has focused on the development of an indicator framework. The WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework is shown in Figure 1. The methodology used to develop the WR-GPI 2001-2010 indicator framework is described in this section.

Indicators provide specific information on the state or condition of something, with the purpose of measuring change or trends over time. Good indicators provide essential information about the health and functioning of a system and can tell us whether progress is being made. However, not all indicators are ideal for use in a monitoring framework. For the WR-GPI a set of criteria was developed to determine the value or usefulness of potential indicators of well-being. The criteria included such things as whether the data came from a reliable or official source, whether it clearly showed change over time and whether it was easily understood.

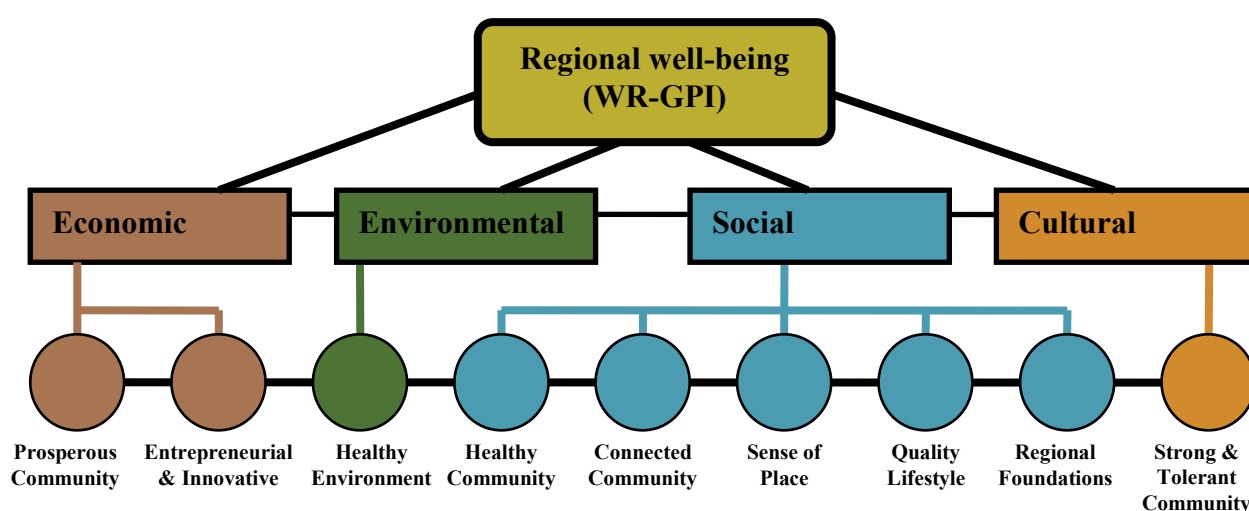


Figure 1. WR-GPI framework

Regional well-being is at the top of the WR-GPI framework and unifies our efforts to measure how the region is progressing. Regional well-being is made up of the four aspects of well-being, which incorporate the nine community outcomes (see Appendix 1 for descriptions of the four aspects of well-being and nine community outcomes). There is also interaction among all aspects of the framework, although we are far from knowing all the constituents and determinants of these interactions. Within the community outcomes sit a total of 86 indicators (see Appendix 2 for the full list of indicators, the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources) which are considered as measures of well-being related to what the community considered important to quality of life.<sup>4</sup>

A paper entitled “*The approach to the Wellington region genuine progress index (WR-GPI) 2001-2010*” (Durling, 2011) provides a comprehensive description of the indicators and methodologies employed to construct the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework, and readers are directed to this for further information.

## 2.2. Indicator and GPI trends

There are two types of trends presented in this report:

- Individual indicator trends, and
- GPI trends for sets of indicators.<sup>5</sup>

Throughout this report symbols are used to represent the trends in indicator and GPI results.

### Individual indicator trends

The trend for each indicator shows an improvement, no clear progress, or a decline in well-being. The well-being trend may also be uncertain due to no or insufficient trend data available. The relevant well-being trend is represented by one of the symbols shown in Table 1. For example, an upward arrow shows that the change in indicator data over the study period results in an improvement in well-being. It is possible that the indicator data may show a negative trend over the study period but still be represented by an upward arrow as the indicator itself may have a negative influence on well-being, for example unemployment rates, road injuries, and crime rates.

### GPI trends for sets of indicators





The trend for each GPI over the study period indicate improving conditions of well-being, no significant change in well-being, or declining well-being conditions, and are identified by one of the symbols shown in Table 2. A cross, for example, shows that there has been a negative change over the study period in relation to the relevant well-being goals.

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<sup>4</sup> Whilst the community was not specifically involved in the development of the indicators, some public feedback was received during the consultation on the WRS growth framework.

<sup>5</sup> Indicators have been grouped under the nine community outcomes and the four aspects of well-being.

**Table 1. Indicator trend symbols**

Symbol	Explanation
	The indicator data trend indicates an improvement in well-being
	The indicator data trend indicates no clear well-being progress
	The indicator data trend indicates a decline in well-being
	Uncertain, no or insufficient trend data available to assess well-being progress

**Table 2. GPI trend symbols**

Symbol	Explanation
	The GPI trend indicates an improving condition over the study period
	The GPI trend indicates no significant trend or insufficient information to assess conditions
	The GPI trend indicates a declining condition over the study period



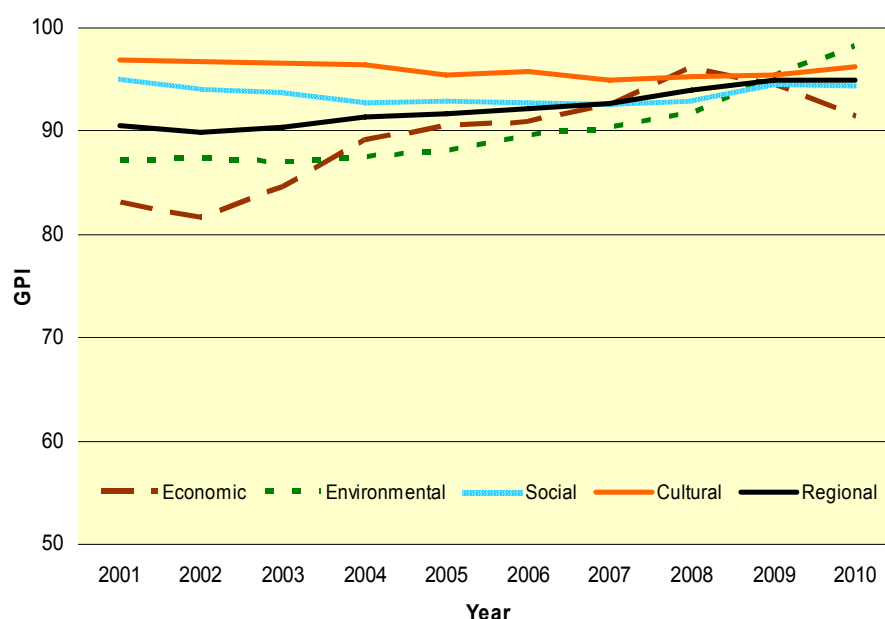
### 3. Wellington region GPI



**The overall Wellington region GPI has gradually increased, and is 5% higher in 2010 than 2001**

The WR-GPI framework includes four composite indices to reflect the regions economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being, and a composite index to measure the region's overall state of well-being. The overall composite index (Wellington region GPI) is based on information across all four aspects of well-being.

When comparing GPI's it needs to be remembered that the GPI is about measuring progress. Just because an area has a higher GPI value it does not necessarily mean that as a region we are performing better in that area. This Wellington region GPI report of well-being shows a mixture of both positive and negative trends across the Wellington region's economic (see Chapter 4), environmental (see Chapter 5), social (see Chapter 6), and cultural well-being (see Chapter 7). Figure 2 below shows the four well-being GPIs and the overall Wellington region GPI from 2001 to 2010.



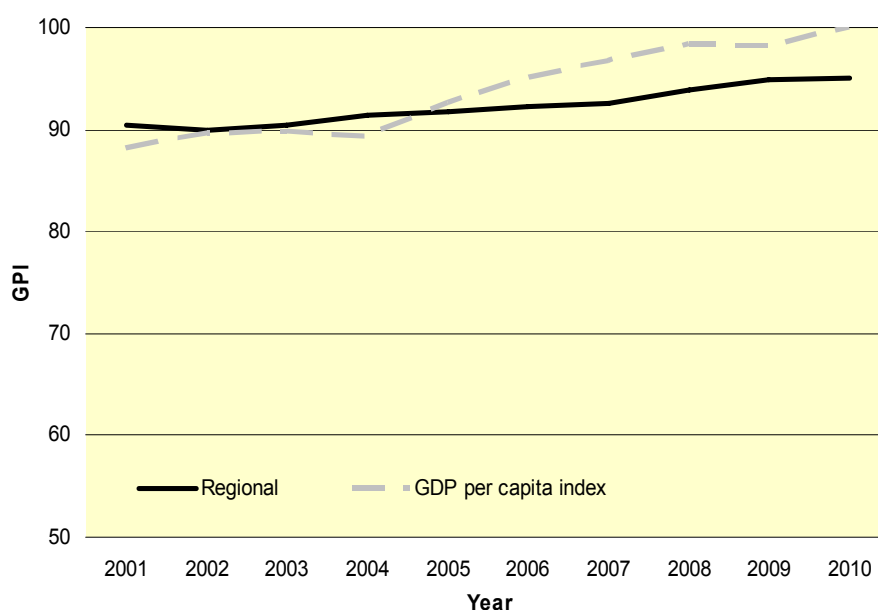
**Figure 2. Overall regional well-being GPI compared to the four well-being GPIs, 2001-2010**

Other than a slight decrease between 2001 and 2002, and little change between 2009 and 2010, the regional GPI has increased over the study period. The regional GPI was found to be at its highest in 2010 and is 5% higher in 2010 compared to 2001. This result suggests that the overall state of well-being in the Wellington region is in a healthy and improving condition, though the well-being condition and progress in some areas needs attention.

The improvements made to the state of the region's overall well-being are due to the progress made in aspects of the regions economic and environmental well-being over the study period. While the slight decline in social and cultural well-being from 2001 to 2007 restricted the progress of the region's overall well-being, the slight gains in these areas of well-being over the last few years is hopefully an indication that further progress is to come.

GDP has been the most commonly used methodology for measuring the well-being of nations. However, as GDP is mainly concerned with the total amount of cash flowing in an economy there are flaws in relying on it to tell us anything about other aspects of our well-being. The GPI is becoming increasingly popular world-wide as a measure to replace the use of GDP as a measure of progress or societal well-being.

To illustrate the differences between GDP and GPI for the Wellington region, Figure 3 shows the overall results comparing Wellington's real GDP per capita (indexed to allow for comparison) with the Wellington region's GPI.



**Figure 3. Overall regional well-being GPI compared to GDP per capita (indexed), 2001-2010**

The results show that the Wellington region's real GDP per capita index remained relatively unchanged from 2001 to 2004 before increasing rapidly up until 2008. The GDP per capita index then decreased slightly between 2008 and 2009, as the affects of the global financial crisis impacted on the Wellington economy, before recovering and increasing once again between 2009 and 2010. From 2001 to 2010, the indexed real GDP per capita for the Wellington region increased 13%, indicating that the regions economy has progressively grown.

The regional GPI results, however, do not reveal quite such an encouraging picture. As noted earlier, the regional GPI decreased slightly between 2001 and 2002, before increasing gradually up until 2009 and remaining unchanged over the last year. These changes result in a 5% increase in the regional GPI from 2001 to 2010.

In summary, the regional economy, measured in terms of GDP per capita, has grown at a much faster rate than our overall conditions of well-being. This suggests that, over the last decade, some of the benefits of economic growth to society, measured in terms of GDP, have been offset by the declines seen in the areas of the region's environmental, social and cultural well-being.

## 4. Economic well-being GPI



**The economic well-being GPI is higher in 2010 than 2001, but has decreased slightly since 2008**

### Overview

Under the Local Government Act (2002), one of the purposes of local government is to promote the social, environmental, economic, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future. The concept of well-being is widely used, but often without being clearly defined (King, 2007). The Act also does not define well-being but allows for councils to develop their own definitions relevant to the local context.

There is not a regional definition of economic well-being, but in the WR-GPI framework it is considered that economic well-being is about:

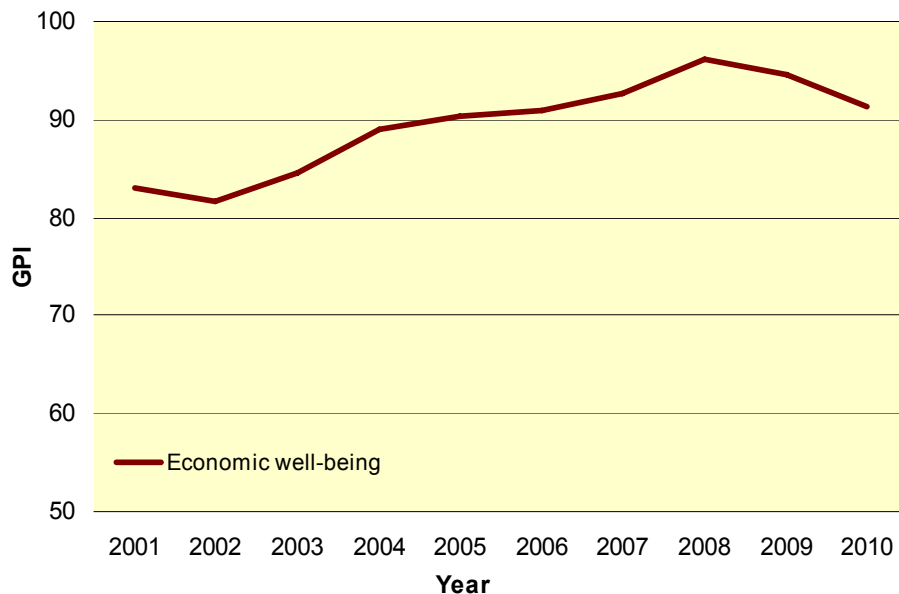
- Ensuring people have educational opportunities, employment and a decent income.
- Supporting businesses and enabling opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship

Economic well-being in the WR-GPI framework is made up of indicators from two community outcome areas – prosperous community and entrepreneurial and innovative community. In total 12 of the 86 indicators in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework form part of the economic well-being aspect of the framework. Appendix 3 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of these 12 indicators. For some indicators, data is not available for the whole 2001 to 2010 study period. For details on our approach for dealing with this, see the approach paper referred to earlier (Durling, 2011).

### Findings

Using the available data, individual index values for each indicator have been calculated for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 4 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the economic well-being GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.

Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the economic well-being GPI was found to be highest in 2008 and lowest in 2002. The economic well-being GPI decreased slightly from 2001 to 2002, gradually increased between 2002 and 2008, and then decreased from 2008 to 2010. Despite these changes, overall there has been a 9.9% increase in the region's economic well-being GPI from 2001 to 2010.



**Figure 4. Economic well-being GPI, 2001-2010**

The increase in the Economic Wellbeing and Prosperous Community GPI between 2001 and 2010 reflects the expansion of the Wellington economy which occurred over this period. The main contribution to this expansion came from growth in both employment and incomes - largely generated by the growth in the public sector during this time. Even the widening inequality measure which was the only indicator to make a significant negative contribution to the economic well-being GPI, was largely caused by income growth in the relatively well-paid public sector. The income growth and tight labour market over most of the period was responsible for buoyant consumer confidence as reflected in a strong property market and high rates of construction growth.

The decrease in the Economic Wellbeing and Prosperous Community GPI which occurred from 2008 is consistent with the general economic contraction associated with the fall-out from the global financial crisis and, in particular, the reduction in income and employment growth in both the public and private sectors experienced since then.

Even though there have been changes to indicator index values over the 2001 to 2010 period, only three indicators have index values in 2010 lower than those in 2001. These are unemployment rate, P80/P20 ratio of equivalised gross weekly household income and business start-ups as a percent of business turnover (start-ups and closures). This indicates that the gains in most indicators observed between 2001 and 2008 are greater than any observed decreases from 2008 to 2010.

#### 4.1. Prosperous community GPI



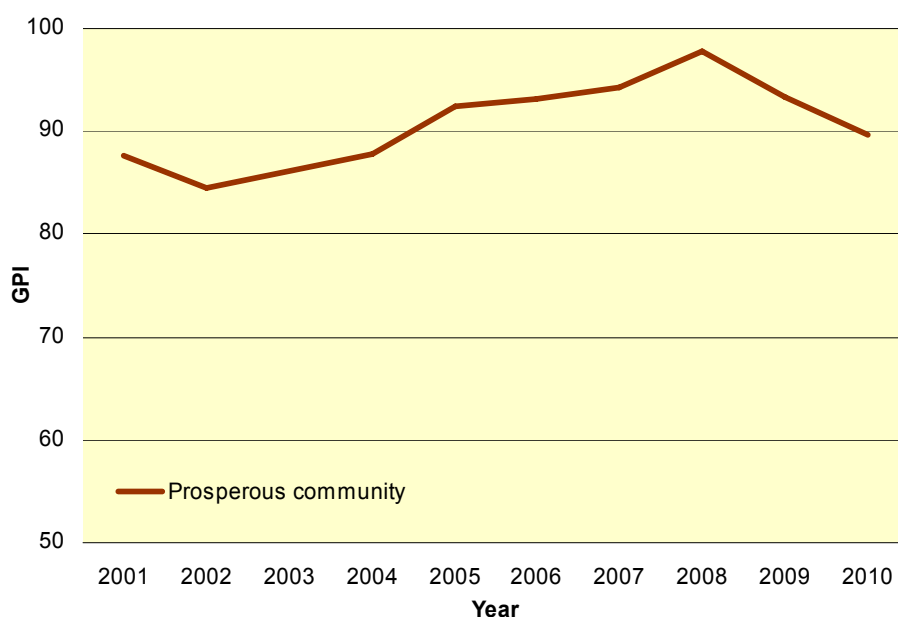
After an initial decline from 2001 to 2002, the prosperous community GPI increased up until 2008 but has steadily decreased over the last two years

##### OUTCOME DEFINITION:

**All members of our community prosper from a strong and growing economy. A thriving business sector attracts and retains a skilled and productive workforce.**

Prosperous community is made up of eight indicators that were selected to measure progress towards the prosperous community outcome definition (shown above). Appendix 3 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of the prosperous community indicators.

As with the economic well-being GPI, the available indicator data that forms part of the prosperous community outcome area was used to calculate individual index values for each indicator for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 5 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the prosperous community GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.



**Figure 5. Prosperous community GPI, 2001-2010**

Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the prosperous community GPI was found to be highest in 2008 and lowest in 2002. The prosperous community GPI decreased slightly from 2001 to 2002, gradually increased between 2002 and 2008, and then decreased from 2008 to 2010. The changes have resulted in a 2.2% increase in the prosperous community GPI from 2001 to 2010.

The value of household and community work made the biggest contribution to the increase in prosperous community GPI from 2001 to 2010, with much smaller increases observed for purchasing power, value of building consents and percentage of the working age population with no qualifications. From 2001 to 2010, the unemployment rate index showed the largest decrease, followed by the P80/P20 ratio of equivalised gross weekly household income.

## **Discussion**

Over the study period there were improvements to four indicators, declines in two indicators and no change for two indicators. The indicators within the prosperous community GPI indicate that whilst good progress had been made towards the prosperous community outcome goals, this progress has reversed over the last few years due to the general economic contraction associated with the fall-out from the global financial crisis and, in particular, the reduction in income and employment growth in both the public and private sectors experienced since then.

A prosperous community is one in which there is a job market in which employment is growing, unemployment is low, incomes are relatively high and evenly distributed and people are well-educated. The unemployment rate in the region reached a long-term low in 2008, but has increased steadily over the last few years. While these increases have not been as severe as those observed for New Zealand overall they still have consequences for individuals, their families and the community. In particular, unemployment increases the risk of poverty and is associated with stress, financial insecurity, poor health outcomes, and a wide range of social problems.

A society where there are people who want to work but are unable to do so, is one that is unable to prosper and give residents the opportunity to improve their quality of life. The far-reaching impacts of unemployment on an economy mean that its measurement, in GPI terms, straddles a number of factors including loss of output, deterioration of human capital, loss of public sector income, and health, crime and psychological costs (Hamilton and Denniss, 2000).

Having income available is a crucial element contributing to quality of life because most basic needs such as food, water, shelter, health care and many forms of recreation have to be purchased. While income is a key factor in being able to provide these basic needs, it is also affected by the price of goods and services. For example, if someone's income stays the same but the price of goods and services increases, the purchasing power of that income falls. On average, households in the Wellington region have a higher purchasing power than New Zealand households overall.

There is a growing body of evidence that indicates that not only income, and its related purchasing power, but also the distribution of income - the gap between rich and poor and the extent of income inequality - has effects on well-being (Wilkinson and Pickett, 2010). For example, higher income inequality has been correlated with higher rates of mortality, obesity, mental illness, imprisonment and literacy difficulties.

Income inequality in the Wellington region is more accentuated than for New Zealand overall, as the P80/P20 ratio of equivalised gross weekly household income is consistently higher over the study period. The degree of income inequality in the region has also increased over the study period. This high and increasing level of income inequality therefore has implications on quality of life in the region.

The valuable services resulting from unpaid household and community work contribute directly to our well-being and prosperity, but tend to be excluded in conventional economic statistics. In 2010 the value of unpaid household and community work in the Wellington region was estimated to be just under \$6 billion. It can be appreciated that these services have high economic value, but it is also argued that these services are more essential to basic survival and quality of life than much of the work done in the market place. A society's commitment to community work is also a measure of the strength of its social connectedness.



## 4.2. Entrepreneurial and innovative community GPI



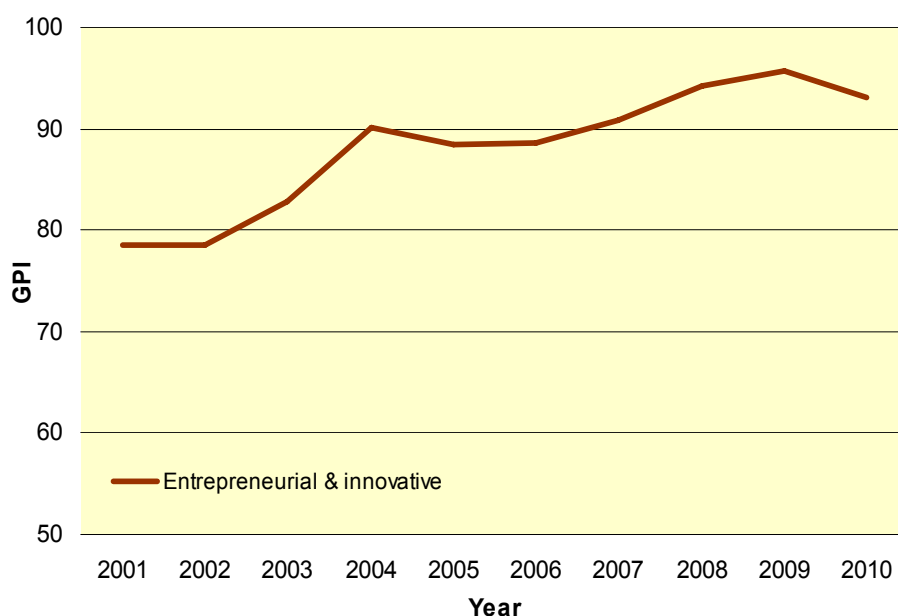
**The entrepreneurial and innovative community GPI increased over the 2001 to 2010 period**

### OUTCOME DEFINITION:

**Innovation, creativity and new endeavours are welcomed and encouraged. Ideas are exchanged across all sectors, resulting in a creative business culture. We have excellent education and research institutions, and benefit from being the seat of government.**

Entrepreneurial and innovative community is made up of four indicators that were selected to measure progress towards the entrepreneurial and innovative community outcome definition (shown above). Appendix 3 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of the entrepreneurial and innovative community indicators.

As with the economic well-being GPI, the available indicator data that forms part of entrepreneurial and innovative community outcome area was used to calculate individual index values for each indicator for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 6 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the entrepreneurial and innovative community GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.



**Figure 6. Entrepreneurial and innovative community GPI, 2001-2010**

Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the entrepreneurial and innovative community GPI was found to be highest in 2009 and lowest in 2001 and 2002. The entrepreneurial and innovative community GPI increased rapidly between 2002 and 2004, was relatively stagnant for a few years before gradually increasing up until 2009. However, it decreased from 2009 to 2010. Even with this slight decline over the past year good progress has been made, with an overall 18.4% increase in the entrepreneurial and innovative community GPI from 2001 to 2010.

The entrepreneurial and innovative community indicators show that good progress has been made towards the entrepreneurial and innovative community outcome goals. The biggest contributor to the increase in GPI from 2001 to 2010 is the increase in the percentage of GDP spent on research and development, followed by the percentage of school leavers with NCEA level 2 or above. However, progress in these areas has slowed over the last few years. The decreased growth in these indicators over recent years, combined with the decline in business start-ups as a percent of business turnover (start-ups and closures) over the study period have resulted in a decrease in GPI over the last year.

While a decline in business start-ups as a percent of business turnover (start-ups and closures) was observed over the study period, the decrease was not great enough to counteract the increases observed across the other indicators.

## Discussion

Over the study period there were improvements to three indicators and declines in one indicator. The indicators within the entrepreneurial and innovative community GPI indicate that good progress has been made towards the entrepreneurial and innovative community outcome goals, even though this progress has slowed, or in one case started to decline, over the last few years.

Entrepreneurship and innovation, including research and development are important for economic growth and for sustaining a dynamic economy capable of competing successfully on the international stage. This is further articulated by the Ministry of Research Science and Technology (Ministry of Research Science and Technology, 2006):

*“Research, science and technology (RS&T) is important to NZ’s quality of life and future prosperity. Research and science create new knowledge. It is the application of this, often through technology, that leads to innovation and the positive changes that are required for improving well-being and economic growth.”*

It is encouraging and good for the regional economy that expenditure on research and development and expenditure as a proportion of GDP in the region, has increased over the study period. These increases signal a commitment to research and development, and its importance to generating economic growth, despite recent economic pressures. However, when compared with other OECD countries, the New Zealand spend on research and development is rated well below that of other countries and the OECD average. This suggests that as a country, and a region, there is much more progress to be made in this area.

Economic growth may be a result of the development of new ideas that generate income and develop new industries, or it could be through attracting other innovators and entrepreneurs to the region. Of importance to these things is the availability of the requisite skills base and the knowledge capacity within an area to support these new industries.

Having the skills base and knowledge capacity to develop new ideas and support new industries appears to be an area of strength for the Wellington region compared to New Zealand overall. The region has higher proportions of school leavers achieving NCEA level 2, and higher proportions of people employed in highly skilled occupations (professional, scientific and technical services). This suggests that the skills available within the Wellington area should not limit its capacity to support particular industries and consequently its outlook for economic growth.

Businesses are also a key component of the region's economy. A diverse business environment is better able to absorb cyclical downturns and changing market trends. If there is business confidence people are more inclined to venture into entrepreneurial activities as they see the economy able to support new ideas. The number of new businesses starting up gives an indication of the vitality of entrepreneurship in the region, whereas business start-ups as a percent of business turnover (start-ups and closures) gives an indication of business activity as a whole.

In the Wellington region, the number of business start-ups increased gradually from 2001 to 2007, but has decreased each year since this time. The number of business closures remained relatively static during the beginning of the decade but has increased steadily since 2006. These changes have resulted in a decrease of business start-ups as a percent of business turnover. This is discouraging and suggests a drop in business confidence and innovation in the region.

Overall, the Wellington region appears to have a commitment to entrepreneurship and innovation. Entrepreneurship also contributes to opportunities for employment for residents and in turn entrepreneurship in the region is supported by the area having the requisite skills base and knowledge to support new ideas and industries. However, there has been a decline in business confidence over recent years which may, if long term, impact on the region's economy and quality of life.

## 5. Environmental well-being and healthy environment GPI



The environmental well-being and healthy environment GPI increased over the 2001 to 2010 period

### Overview

Under the Local Government Act (2002), one of the purposes of local government is to promote the social, environmental, economic, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future. The concept of well-being is widely used, but often without being clearly defined (King, 2007). The Act also does not define well-being but allows for councils to develop their own definitions relevant to the local context.

There is not a regional definition of environmental well-being, but in the WR-GPI framework it is considered that environmental well-being is about meeting the environmental needs of today's generation, without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Under the WRS community outcomes the area of environmental well-being is represented by only one community outcome called healthy environment. This means that the GPI for environmental well-being is the same as the healthy environment GPI.

Healthy environment includes 17 indicators that were selected to measure progress towards the healthy environment outcome definition (shown below). Currently one of the healthy environment indicators does not have a data source attributable to it, so only 16 indicators are included in this report.

#### **OUTCOME DEFINITION:**

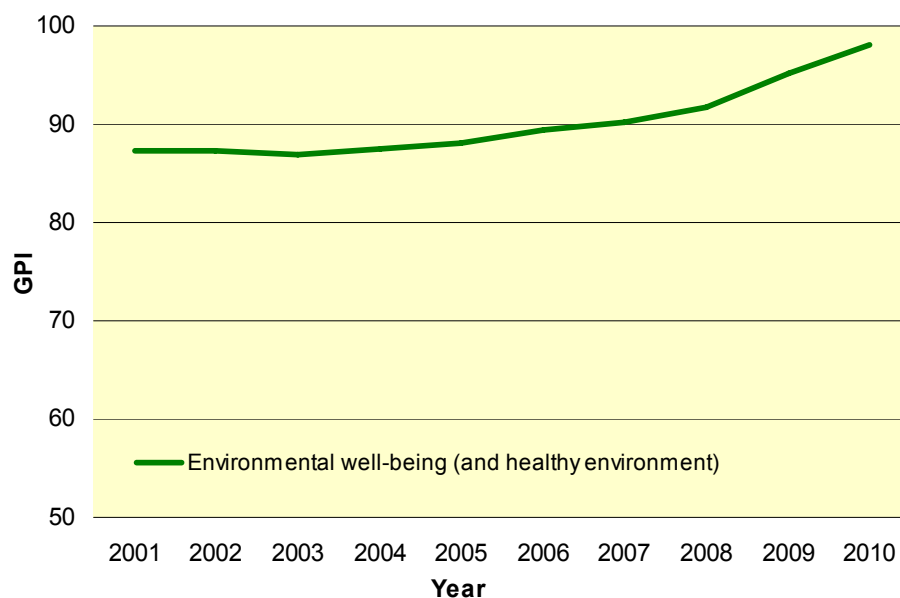
**We have clean water, fresh air and healthy soils. Well functioning and diverse ecosystems make up an environment that can support our needs. Resources are used efficiently. There is minimal waste and pollution.**

To avoid repeating the same information, the findings shown below for environmental well-being are also the same as the healthy environment community outcome GPI.

In total, 16 of the 86 indicators in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework form part of the environmental well-being aspect of the framework. Appendix 4 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of these 16 indicators. For some indicators, data is not available for the whole 2001 to 2010 study period. For details on our approach for dealing with this, see the approach paper referred to earlier (Durling, 2011).

## Findings

Using the available data, individual index values for each indicator have been calculated for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 7 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the environmental well-being (and healthy environment) GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.



**Figure 7. Environmental well-being (and healthy environment) GPI, 2001-2010**

Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the environmental well-being GPI was found to be highest in 2010 and lowest in 2003. The environmental well-being GPI remained relatively unchanged from 2001 to 2003, gradually increased between 2003 and 2008, then increased much more rapidly from 2008 to 2010. Overall there has been a 12.5% increase in the region's environmental well-being GPI from 2001 to 2010.

The environmental well-being GPI has increased gradually between 2001 and 2008. Over this time there were some slight decreases in a couple of indicators, but overall increases were observed for the majority of indicators. The largest increases over this time are observed for fresh water suitability for recreation, QEII covenanted land, and soil quality of dairy farm sites. The main decrease over this time was observed for stream and river health.

Over the last few years (2007 to 2010) a rapid increase in the environmental GPI was observed. Over these few years increases were observed in nearly all indicators. The greatest gains were observed for residents rating of air pollution as a city problem (ie, less residents thought it was a problem), fresh water suitability for recreation and volume diverted from landfills per capita.

The indicators within the WR-GPI framework indicate that good progress has been made towards some of the region's environmental goals, but there is still much room for improvement. For example further improvements to fresh water suitability for recreation and improvements to coastal/marine water for recreation, could potentially result in large gains to the healthy environment and environmental well-being GPI. Three of the indicators only have one year of data currently available, so as further data becomes available these are also likely to affect GPI values, but whether this is a positive or negative impact remains to be seen.

## **Discussion**

Over the study period there were improvements to ten indicators, no change to three indicators, and for three indicators it is not possible to identify a trend as only one year of data is currently available.

The indicators within the environmental well-being (and healthy environment) GPI indicate that good progress has been made towards the healthy environment community outcome goals and improving our environmental well-being. There is always likely to be environmental concerns or specific isolated issues in the region that may not get captured within the indicators. However, the indicators give us a general picture and currently show that the environment in the Wellington region is in a relatively healthy state.

Good air quality is fundamental to our well-being and prevents damage to our ecosystems, our health, and our economy. The region's air quality is within acceptable limits in most places, most of the time and has improved over time. Alongside this, residents' rating of air pollution as a problem has also decreased and in 2010 only 8% of residents rated air pollution as a problem in the region.

In addition to air quality, good water and soil quality, reducing waste, and improving energy efficiency are all essential to maintaining a healthy environment and ensuring the sustainability of the resources in the region. The indicators show good progress in most of these areas; however an area of relative weakness is our fresh water and coastal/marine water quality for recreation. The grading of freshwater and coastal/marine sites for recreational purposes is greatly affected by rainfall in the three days before sampling, and the majority of occasions when water quality in the region was unsuitable for recreational purposes were during and shortly after heavy rainfall periods.

Water-based recreational activities are part of our outdoor-focused way of life and it is essential that the water is of a high quality. This is fundamental if enjoyment is to be gained from these activities and ensuring that people are not exposed to significant health risks.

Water quality also has a direct impact on the ecological health of our rivers and streams. In the region our "healthiest" rivers and streams are located in catchments dominated by indigenous forest cover and where human influences are minimal. Stream and river health can therefore be viewed as an indicator of wider catchment health.

As a region we need to find a balance between human influences, land use activities and sustaining the natural ecosystems, not only relating to our water systems but also across other aspects of the environment.

For example, primary land uses such as agriculture, dairying and cropping are key contributors to the economy of the region but they can have a negative influence on the environment. Primary land use tends to decrease organic matter and increase nutrient levels. Nutrients do not harm soils but if they are present at higher levels than can be used, they can leach from the soil to groundwater or rivers where they can make water unsafe for drinking and affect freshwater ecosystems. It is encouraging to see that the health of the region's dairy farm and drystock soils is found to be mainly intact and has improved over time.

Protecting land through open space covenants also helps maintain our ecosystem diversity, along with our natural and cultural heritage. Other forms of protection in relation to our erosion-prone hill country, prevents damage to both rural and urban businesses, communities and infrastructure.

It appears that Wellington residents are becoming increasingly aware of their role in waste reduction. The amount of waste going to landfills is decreasing, and the amount of recycling in the region is increasing, indicating the community's commitment to sustainable practices.

The ecological footprint of a place is an estimate of the amount of biologically productive land and sea area needed to regenerate (if possible) the resources a human population consumes and to absorb and render harmless the corresponding waste. The Wellington region's ecological footprint is below the New Zealand average. The main factor that seems to contribute to the relatively low per capita footprint is the efficiency achieved through the concentration of the urban population in the Wellington region. However, even with this relatively low ecological footprint, the Wellington region does have an ecological deficit, that is, it uses more land in domestic consumption than there is available land.

In the areas of energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and total ecological footprint, it is currently not possible to assess our progress. However, compared to national results, corresponding figures for the Wellington region show that we appear to be performing relatively well. Energy production and consumption patterns are linked to global climate change, local health effects, and regional impacts such as air and water pollution, damage to marine and other wildlife, land-use conflicts, security concerns, resource depletion, and soil contamination. In order to continue to improve our region's environmental well-being we must aim to reduce or at a minimum, keep our energy use and greenhouse gas emissions low.

## 6. Social well-being GPI



**The social well-being GPI is at a similar level in 2010 as it was in 2001**

### Overview

Under the Local Government Act (2002), one of the purposes of local government is to promote the social, environmental, economic, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future. The concept of well-being is widely used, but often without being clearly defined (King, 2007). The Act also does not define well-being but allows for councils to develop their own definitions relevant to the local context.

There is not a regional definition of social well-being, but in the WR-GPI framework it is considered that social well-being is about the vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through:

- Connections to their community
- Having healthy and active lifestyles

Social well-being in the WR-GPI framework is made up of indicators from five community outcome areas – healthy community, connected community, sense of place, quality lifestyle and regional foundations. In total, 43<sup>6</sup> of the 86 indicators in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework form part of the social well-being aspect of the framework. Appendix 5 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of these 43 indicators. For some indicators, data is not available for the whole 2001 to 2010 study period. For details on our approach for dealing with this, see the approach paper referred to earlier (Durling, 2011).

### Findings

Using the available data, individual index values for each indicator have been calculated for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 8 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the social well-being GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.

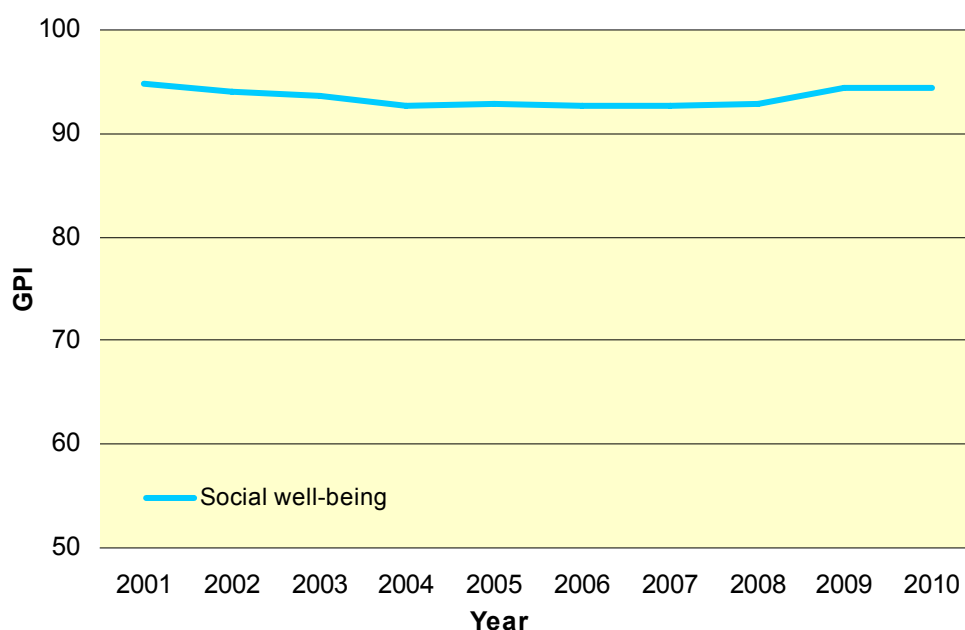
Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the social well-being GPI was found to be highest in 2001 and lowest in 2007. Overall, the social well-being GPI gradually decreased from 2001 to 2004, remained relatively unchanged between 2004 and 2008, but shows signs of improvement with a slight increase observed over the last two years.

Even though there has been little change in the social well-being GPI over the study period, there have been changes to a number of the indicators over this time. This means that the negative changes to some indicators are counter-balanced by the positive changes to other indicators.

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<sup>6</sup> There are 45 indicators included in the WR-GPI framework that form part of the social well-being area, however two of these indicators do not currently have a data source attributable to them so are not included in this report.





**Figure 8. Social well-being GPI, 2001-2010**

The social well-being indicators that observed the largest increases in their index values over the study period were the percentage of households with access to broadband, followed by the percentage of households with access to the internet, visitor guest nights and public transport boardings. However, indicators with the largest decrease in their indicator index values were water allocation compared to total water resource, followed by the number of households on Housing New Zealand waiting lists and peak AM/PM congestion rates.

## 6.1. Healthy community GPI



The healthy community GPI has increased over recent years but remains lower in 2010 than 2001

### OUTCOME DEFINITION:

**Our physical and mental health is protected. Living and working environments are safe, and everyone has access to health care. Every opportunity is taken to recognise and encourage good health.**

Healthy community is made up of 11 indicators that were selected to measure progress towards the healthy community outcome definition (shown above). Appendix 5 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of the healthy community indicators.

As with the social well-being GPI, the available indicator data that forms part of the healthy community area was used to calculate individual index values for each indicator for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 9 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the healthy community GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.

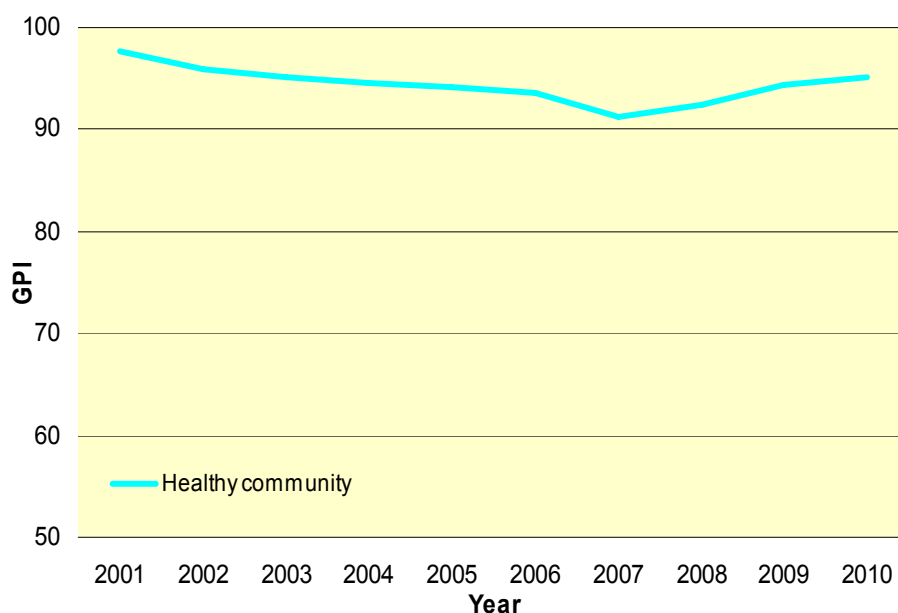


Figure 9. Healthy community GPI, 2001-2010

Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the healthy community GPI was found to be highest in 2001 and lowest in 2007. The healthy community GPI decreased gradually from 2001 to 2007, but increases have been observed each year since this time. The observed increases over the last few years are encouraging but the healthy community GPI remains 2.7% lower in 2010 than 2001.

The healthy community indicators show that we have not made progress towards the healthy community outcome goals, even though some encouraging gains have been observed over recent years. From 2001 to 2007 where the healthy community GPI decreased, only one healthy community indicator – amenable mortality rate per 1,000 people – increased with all other indicators remaining unchanged or decreasing. The number of reported road injuries made the biggest contribution to the decrease in healthy community GPI from 2001 to 2007, followed by full-time equivalent (FTE) general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 people, prevalence of overweight/obesity and avoidable hospital admissions rate per 1,000 people. Interestingly the biggest contributor to the increase in healthy community GPI from 2007 to 2010 was the number of reported road injuries (ie, a decrease in road injuries), followed by an increase in the rate of FTE GPs per 100,000 people.

## Discussion

Over the study period there were improvements to two indicators, no change for four indicators, declines in four indicators and for one indicator it is not possible to identify a trend as only one year of data is currently available. The indicators within the healthy community GPI indicate that the health of the region's population has experienced a decline since 2001. However, data from the last few years shows some indication that this trend may be reversing.

Good health is vital to well-being. Health is a major component, in one form or another, to the region's overall GPI. Some of the other indicators in the WR-GPI, e.g, income and its distribution, employment, education, crime, free time, air quality, and greenhouse gas emissions, have a major impact on health outcomes. Without good health, people are less able to enjoy their lives, their options may be limited and their quality of life and happiness may be reduced. Also without good health and the ability to access healthcare, people are unable to actively participate in and contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of the region.

Self-reported health has been found to be a powerful predictor of future health problems, health care use, and longevity. The majority of the adult population in the region are positive about their health. Our life expectancy at birth measure suggests that people in the region are living longer.

There is increasing evidence that the risk of developing many chronic diseases is influenced by the way we live. However, exhibiting healthy behaviours, such as non-smoking, safe drinking, doing sufficient physical activity, and maintaining a healthy weight, contribute to reducing the risk of developing many of these chronic diseases (Fine, et al., 2004; Chiuve, et al., 2008; Carr, 2011). Unfortunately, we have not made progress on any of the indicators reflecting healthy behaviours.

Road accidents are a leading cause of premature death, injury and disability. As a region our performance in this area is encouraging but there is much room for improvement. The number of reported road injuries (including deaths) in the region is lower than for New Zealand overall and has decreased each year since 2007. Traffic accidents also impose economic costs, including property damage, medical and rehabilitation costs, disability compensation payments, and lost productivity. The Regional Land Transport Strategy focuses on a range of measures to reduce road accidents and as our progress in this area improves this will also help to reduce the associated economic costs of road accidents.

A number of health conditions and deaths are regarded as avoidable. They can be avoided through the effectiveness of better health and awareness strategies or primary health care interventions or provision. Avoidable hospital admissions can be seen as a proxy for people's access to, and the effectiveness of, community health care services. From 2001 to 2010 avoidable hospital admissions increased by 11% indicating that people are either not accessing primary health care services or the services themselves are less effective.

Health is the outcome of a wide range of social, economic and environmental factors. Improvements to social and economic conditions, lifestyle, and access to health services are likely to have the largest impacts on our health and well-being. In the region we are generally positive about our health and our life expectancy has improved. However, without improvements to the way we live in terms of smoking, drinking, physical activity, and weight we are unlikely to see good progress made towards our healthy community goals.

## 6.2. Connected community GPI



The connected community GPI has increased since 2001

### OUTCOME DEFINITION:

**Our connections and access are efficient, quick and easy - locally, nationally and internationally. Our communication networks, air and sea ports, roads and public transport systems are world class and enable us to link with others, both within and outside the region.**

Connected community is made up of 10 indicators that were selected to measure progress towards the connected community outcome definition (shown above). Appendix 5 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of the connected community indicators.

As with the social well-being GPI, the available indicator data that forms part of the connected community area was used to calculate individual index values for each indicator for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 10 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the connected community GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.

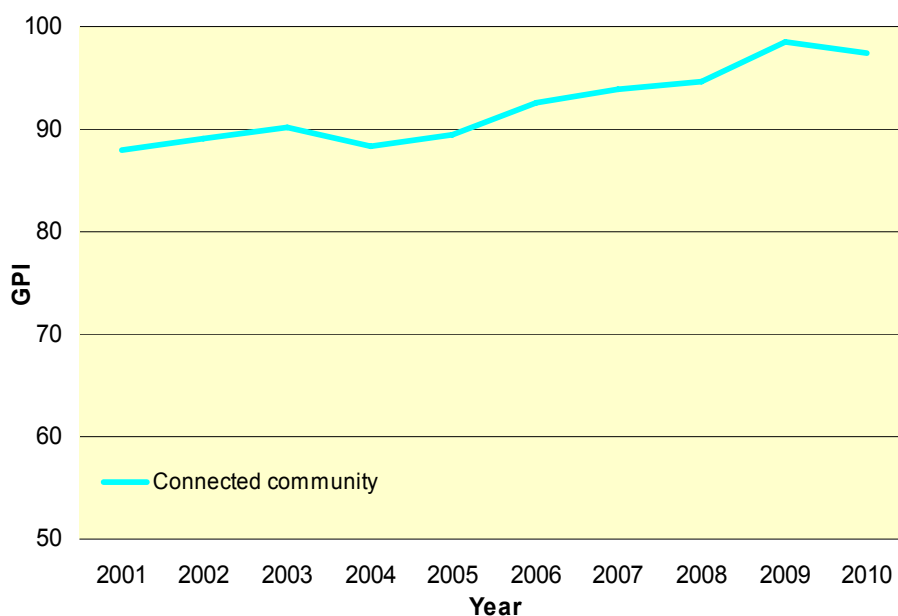


Figure 10. Connected community GPI, 2001-2010

Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the connected community GPI was found to be highest in 2009 and lowest in 2001. While the connected community GPI has seen some fluctuations over the study period, increases have generally been observed each year. Overall the connected community GPI has increased 10.6 % from 2001 to 2010.

The majority of connected community indicators have increased over the study period, with the percentage of households with access to broadband making the biggest contribution to the increase in connected community GPI from 2001 to 2010. Other increases of note were for the percentage of households with access to the internet, public transport boardings per capita and active mode share of total household travel. Peak AM/PM congestion rate index showed the only decrease over the 2001 to 2010 period.

## **Discussion**

Over the study period there were improvements to six indicators, no change for two indicators, declines in one indicator and for one indicator it is not possible to identify a trend as only one year of data is currently available. The indicators within the connected community GPI indicate that the region has experienced an improvement in connectivity across various modes since 2001.

A region that is well-connected in terms of enabling resident's access to private and public transport, and technology such as the internet contributes to the overall well-being of its residents. Access to private and public transport increases people's access to employment, education and medical services, as well as access to the wider community within and outside the region.

The indicators show that use of public transport and access to public transport in the region has increased since 2001. Currently there is only one year of data available, but according to a 2010 survey 56% of residents rated getting around the Wellington region by public transport as somewhat easy, very easy or extremely easy.

Increased public transport use tends to correlate with a reduction in the dependence on private vehicles, which has benefits in terms of keeping road congestion down, reducing vehicle costs, reducing greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions, and reducing the potential for road accidents. However, access to a motor vehicle and the ability to afford to use a motor vehicle, is an important part of feeling connected and provides people with travel opportunities and choices. In 2006, 88% of households in the region had access to a motor vehicle, this is a slight increase since 2001.

Although having access to a motor vehicle is an important part of feeling connected, it is also argued that we want to reduce motor vehicle numbers, especially at peak hours, to reduce congestion. Congestion increases travel time, stress, air pollution and fuel consumption. This makes the movement of people and goods less efficient and reduces people's quality of life. While congestion rates in the region have fluctuated over the study period they are higher in 2010 than they were in 2003.

Encouraging the use of public transport and providing feasible and safe walking and cycling options can also help to reduce congestion. This also reduces the associated negative environmental, social and economic impacts of congestion. There are also additional health benefits achieved by increasing walking and cycling as a transport option.

Travel by active modes made up just over 25% of total travel by residents of main urban areas in the Wellington region. This compares favourably to only 20% of travel for New Zealand residents of main urban areas overall. The higher percentage of travel by active modes in the Wellington region is supported by relatively high proportions of residents rating getting around the region by walking as good. The relatively compact and geographically small scale of Wellington's regional cities and towns make walking around the region relatively easy. However, in comparison lower numbers of residents rate getting around the region by cycling as good, suggesting that this is not a feasible transport option for a number of residents.

Connectivity locally, nationally and internationally can be increased by having access to the internet. This connectivity also becomes quicker and more efficient with access to broadband. Access to the internet and broadband has increased dramatically within the region since 2001. Internet and broadband access can increase productivity and competitiveness, help in business innovation, research and education, as well as improving connectivity to friends and family. However, broadband speeds and costs are still limiting the potential for great economic benefit to the region. It is hoped this will improve over time when the Ultra Fast Broadband Initiative and the Rural Broadband Initiative results in more fibre broadband for Wellington region residents.

### 6.3. Sense of place GPI



The sense of place GPI is similar in 2010 as it was in 2001 even though some encouraging gains have been observed since 2008

#### OUTCOME DEFINITION:

**We have a deep sense of pride in the Wellington region and there is strong community spirit. We value the region's unique characteristics – its rural, urban and harbour landscapes, its central location, and its capital city**

Sense of place is made up of six indicators that were selected to measure progress towards the sense of place outcome definition (shown above). Currently one of the sense of place indicators does not have a data source attributable to it, so only five indicators are included in this report. Appendix 5 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of the sense of place indicators.

As with the social well-being GPI, the available indicator data that forms part of the sense of place area was used to calculate individual index values for each indicator for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 11 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the sense of place GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.

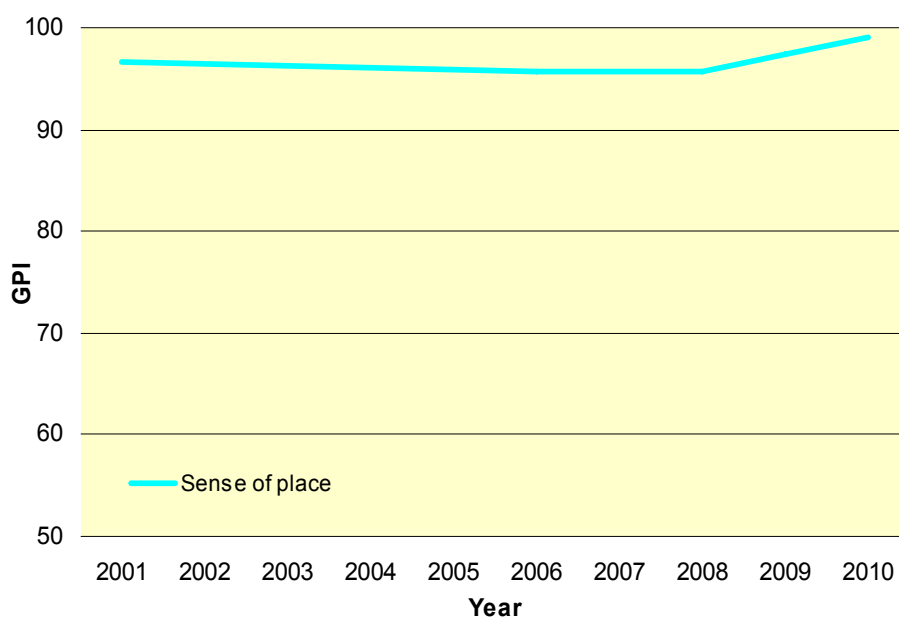


Figure 11. Sense of place GPI, 2001-2010



Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the sense of place GPI was found to be highest in 2010 and lowest in 2006-2008. The sense of place GPI decreased gradually from 2001 to 2008, but has since increased each year. However, overall the sense of place GPI is relatively unchanged between 2001 and 2010 with only a 2.6% increase.

There is limited data currently available for the sense of place indicators meaning our progress is difficult to measure. Currently the only indicator that makes a measurable significant positive contribution to the sense of place GPI from 2001 to 2010 is residents' sense of community in local neighbourhood, whereas volunteerism rates show the only decrease.

## **Discussion**

Over the study period there were improvements to one indicator, no change for two indicators, declines in one indicator and for one indicator it is not possible to identify a trend as only one year of data is currently available. The indicators within the sense of place GPI indicate that it is currently difficult to measure progress towards our sense of place goals due to the paucity of available data. As more data becomes available over time it will become easier to draw conclusions on our progress towards our community outcome goals. The GPI is a long term monitoring tool, and as a region we are just in the early stages of data collection which in cases such as this, does have its limitations.

Despite the limitations in being able to monitor our progress regionally, it is known that residents with a strong sense of pride and a sense of community are key to building strong, socially sustainable and connected communities. These people will act as advocates for their region and promote the positive aspects their region has to offer and contribute to improving their neighbourhood.

Built environments contribute to the way people feel about where they live and impact strongly on the sustainability of the natural environment. However, things like graffiti, vandalism and litter can undermine a person's sense of well-being as they can affect how safe they feel and can have an impact on the way people feel about where they live.

In 2010, 71% of Wellington residents agreed that they felt a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels, and 63% felt a sense of community with others in their local neighbourhood. However, 48% of residents thought that litter, graffiti or vandalism had been a problem in their local area over the last 12 months. These findings show that there is much room for improvement. However, compared to other New Zealand centres Wellington is performing reasonably well in these areas.

A widespread, independent, and active network of community and voluntary organisations is widely regarded as the hallmark of 'civil society', and their active strength as a critical indicator of healthy democracy. This 'social economy' is the arena in which we participate most fully as citizens, freely choosing our interests and associations, and expressing our deepest aspirations to help others. The strength of a society's commitment to voluntary work is, for many, a touchstone of social health, stability, and harmony, and thus a key indicator of social and community well-being.

Though motivated by generosity and care, community and voluntary work also has a direct economic value. If it were suddenly withdrawn, either our standard of living and quality of life would deteriorate markedly, or else government and the private sector would have to provide the lost services for pay. Information from the 2006 census found that higher proportions of Wellington residents compared to New Zealand overall, undertook voluntary work. It is however, discouraging to see that the percentage of adults undertaking voluntary work has decreased overtime.

## 6.4. Quality lifestyle GPI



The quality lifestyle GPI has been relatively stagnant from 2001 to 2010

### OUTCOME DEFINITION:

**Living in the Wellington region is enjoyable, and people feel safe. A variety of healthy and affordable lifestyles can be pursued. Our art, sport, recreation and entertainment scenes are enjoyed by all community members – and attract visitors.**

Quality lifestyle is made up of 13 indicators that were selected to measure progress towards the quality lifestyle outcome definition (shown above). Appendix 5 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of the quality lifestyle indicators.

As with the social well-being GPI, the available indicator data that forms part of the quality lifestyle community outcome area was used to calculate individual index values for each indicator for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 12 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the quality lifestyle GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.

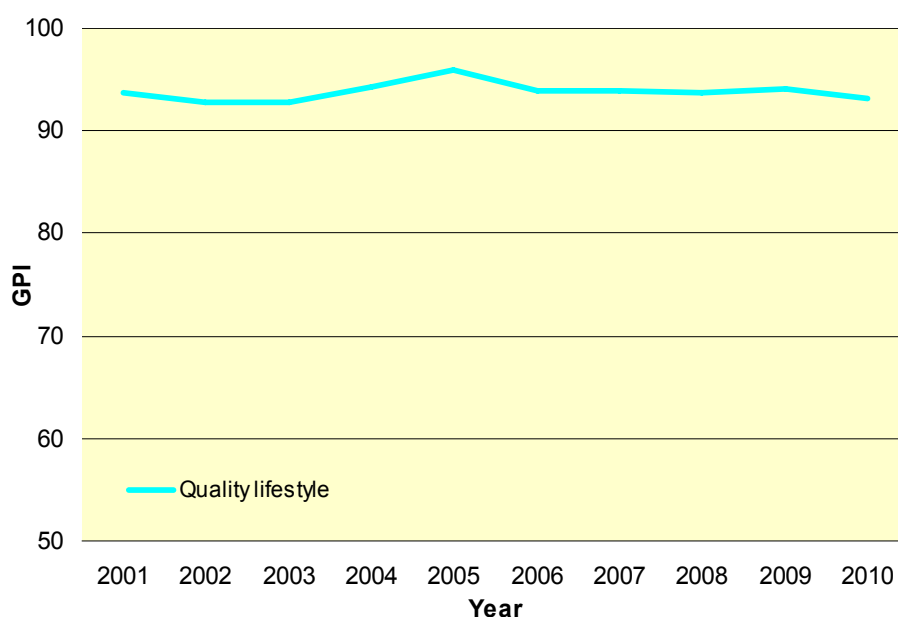


Figure 12. Quality lifestyle GPI, 2001-2010

Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the quality lifestyle GPI was found to be highest in 2005 and lowest in 2002 and 2003. Other than some slight changes from 2003 to 2006 the quality lifestyle GPI has remained relatively unchanged and is 0.5% lower in 2010 than it was in 2001.

Although there has been little change in the quality lifestyle GPI over the 2001 to 2010 study period, there have been some changes in individual indicator index values. Visitor guest nights experienced the largest increase in index values over the study period, whereas the number of households on Housing New Zealand waiting lists and recorded offences for crimes against the person, experienced the largest decreases.

## **Discussion**

Over the study period there were improvements to six indicators, no change for three indicators, and declines in four indicators. The indicators within the quality lifestyle GPI indicate that the region has experienced improvements in some areas, and declines in others, but these counter-balance each other resulting in no progress in our overall quality lifestyle GPI since 2001.

A peaceful, harmonious and secure society is a vital and profound social asset that directly benefits the economy and the quality of life of its citizens. Therefore, if people's perceptions of their overall quality of life are high then this tends to relate positively to their personal well-being. Overall, Wellington region residents appear to be positive about their quality of life and appear to have high levels of individual happiness, satisfaction with work/life balance and sense of safety. Access to parks and green open spaces can increase individual and community participation in activities, and participation in social activities builds social cohesion and connectedness which are also positively related to well-being.

As well as the region's residents accessing, participating and enjoying our local recreation and social scenes, it is also of benefit to the local economy that visitors are attracted to them also. The infrastructure developed to serve the visitor market also benefits local residents and adds to the quality of life in the region. The number of visitor guest nights in the region increased steadily from 2001 to 2008, but has decreased slightly over the last few years.

As with other regions, Wellington is exposed to anti-social behaviours that can reduce the quality of life for its residents. Crime, and the fear of crime, can have a large impact on individuals, family and the wider community. While the majority of residents reported feeling safe, the rate of recorded offences for crimes against the person increased from 2001 to 2010, whereas the rate decreased for crimes against property. If people feel unsafe in their home and local area they may be less likely to talk to neighbours, to trust others living in the area, to use public transport, to walk in the area, use public amenities, and generally participate in their communities.

Housing space adequate to the needs and desires of a family is also a component of a quality lifestyle. Lack of affordable housing can result in parts of the population living in crowded or poor and inadequate housing which can impact on health and other social outcomes. For example increasing levels of social deprivation are associated with higher mortality rates and higher rates of many diseases. In the region there has not been a big change to the indicators related to affordable housing over the study period. However, there have been slight increases in the proportion of the region's population living in deprivation and the number of households on Housing New Zealand waiting lists.

## 6.5 Regional foundations GPI



The regional foundations GPI decreased rapidly between 2001 and 2006 but has remained relatively unchanged since this time

### OUTCOME DEFINITION:

High quality and secure infrastructure and services meet everyday needs. These are developed and maintained to support the sustainable growth of the region, now and in the future.

Regional foundations is made up of five indicators that were selected to measure progress towards the regional foundations outcome definition (shown above). Currently one of the regional foundations indicators does not have a data source attributable to it, so only four indicators are included in this report. Appendix 5 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of the regional foundations indicators.

As with the social well-being GPI, the available indicator data that forms part of the regional foundations community outcome area was used to calculate individual index values for each indicator for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 13 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the regional foundations GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.

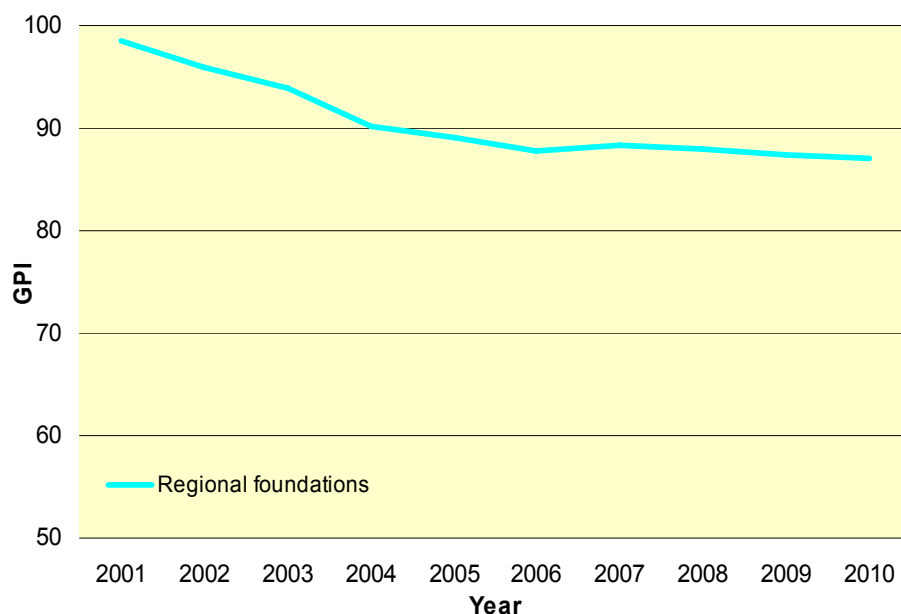


Figure 13. Regional foundations GPI, 2001-2010

Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the regional foundations GPI was found to be highest in 2001 and lowest in 2010. The regional foundations GPI decreased rapidly between 2001 and 2006, but has remained relatively unchanged since this time. Overall, the regional foundations GPI has decreased by 11.6% from 2001 to 2010.

Currently, with data from only four indicators, and one of these only with only one year of data available, the regional foundations GPI is greatly influenced by any moderate to large changes to any individual indicators. In particular, there was nearly an 80% decrease in the indicator index values for water allocation compared to total water resource over the study period, and this large change influences the regional foundations GPI trend.

## Discussion

Over the study period there were improvements to one indicator, declines in two indicators and for one indicator it is not possible to identify a trend as only one year of data is currently available. As mentioned above, the large change to the water allocation compared to total water resource indicator drives the observed regional foundations GPI change since 2001.

The significance of the findings from this indicator is important to the region. However, the current lack of data for one of the regional foundations indicators, and the lack of a data source for another of the indicators means that we must apply some degree of caution when looking at the changes to the regional foundations GPI. The GPI is a long term monitoring tool, and as a region we are in the early stages of data collection which is why issues such as this are currently being encountered.

There are some services which are foundations of modern society, and their availability and reliability is critical to the whole community. Many of these services have a major impact on health outcomes, quality of life, the ability of the region to effectively serve an increasing population and the economic viability of the region. If people have confidence in their local services to enable them to have clean drinking water, high functioning sewage systems, good quality roads and effective public transport systems, they feel they have the basic necessities of a good life.

Fresh water is a finite resource, so competing demands for water use (for example consumption, irrigation and recreation) must be balanced with maintaining the resource. The water allocation compared to total water resource indicator (also known as water stress) is therefore a measure of sustainable water use. The region's water stress ratio has increased over time but despite this the stress ratio remains in the low threshold (Raskin et al., 1997)<sup>7</sup>.

Councils provide a number of the services that are foundations of modern society. In 2008, 78% of Wellington residents were satisfied with the quality of council services in their area. Residents have also increasingly perceived the road network as reliable, but the percentage of residents rating the public transport network as reliable has decreased. Reliability is a measure for how well the roading and public transport infrastructure can cope with current and future demand.

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<sup>7</sup> Water stress thresholds: low – ratio is less than 0.20; medium – ratio is between 0.20 and 0.40; severe – ratio is higher than 0.40.

## 7. Cultural well-being and strong and tolerant community GPI



The cultural well-being and strong and tolerant community GPI showed little change over the 2001 to 2010 period

### Overview

Under the Local Government Act (2002), one of the purposes of local government is to promote the social, environmental, economic, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future. The concept of well-being is widely used, but often without being clearly defined (King, 2007). The Act also does not define well-being but allows for councils to develop their own definitions relevant to the local context.

There is not a regional definition of cultural well-being, but in the WR-GPI framework it is considered that cultural well-being is about the vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through:

- Participation in civics, arts and cultural activities
- Recognising and valuing our history, heritage, culture and diversity.

Under the WRS community outcomes the area of cultural well-being is represented by only one community outcome called strong and tolerant community. This means that the GPI for cultural well-being is the same as the strong and tolerant community GPI.

Strong and tolerant community includes 12 indicators that were selected to measure progress towards the strong and tolerant community outcome definition (shown below).

#### **OUTCOME DEFINITION:**

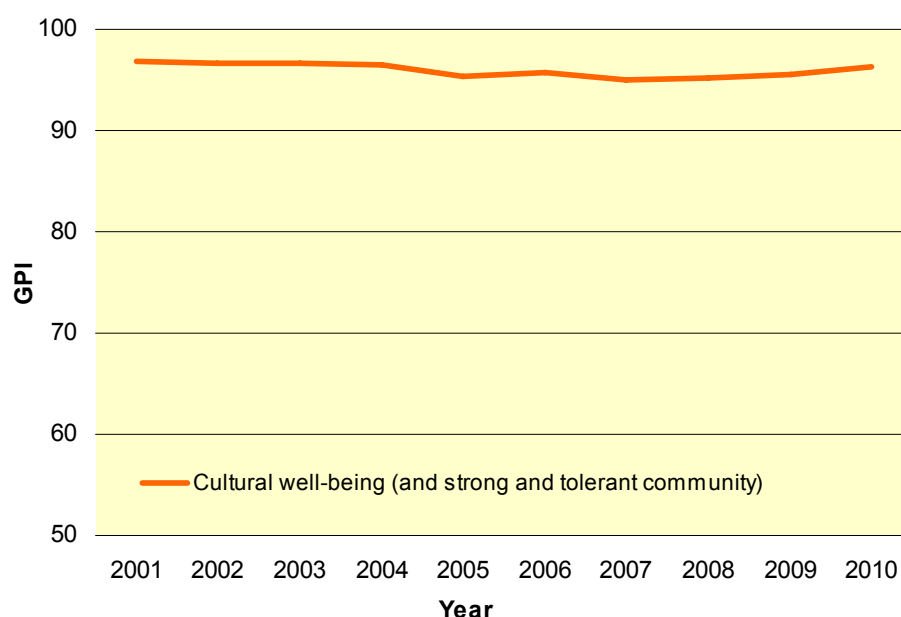
**People are important. All members of our community are empowered to participate in decision-making and to contribute to society. We celebrate diversity and welcome newcomers, while recognising the special role of tangata whenua.**

To avoid repeating the same information, the findings shown below for cultural well-being are also the same as the strong and tolerant community outcome GPI.

In total 12 of the 86 indicators in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework form part of the cultural well-being (strong and tolerant community) aspect of the framework. Appendix 6 of this report shows the raw data available over the 2001 to 2010 study period for each of these 12 indicators. For some indicators, data is not available for the whole 2001 to 2010 study period. For details on our approach for dealing with this, see the approach paper referred to earlier (Durling, 2011).

## Findings

Using the available data, individual index values for each indicator have been calculated for each year over the 2001 to 2010 study period. Figure 14 shows the average of these individual index values, and represents the cultural well-being (and strong and tolerant community) GPI for the Wellington region from 2001-2010.



**Figure 14. Cultural well-being (and strong and tolerant community) GPI, 2001-2010**

Over the 2001 to 2010 time period, the cultural well-being GPI was found to be highest in 2001 and lowest in 2007. The cultural well-being GPI gradually decreased from 2001 to 2005, remained relatively unchanged between 2005 and 2009, but has increased over the last year. However, these changes have resulted in little change overall in the cultural well-being GPI over the study period.

The decline in cultural well-being (and strong and tolerant community) observed between 2001 and 2005 was due to decreases in three indicators over this period. The biggest contributor to the decline in GPI is the decrease in average voter turnout. This was followed by the percentage of children enrolled in Māori language education and the percentage of the population that can have an everyday conversation in te reo Māori. Over this time there were increases in two indicators – the percentage of the population identifying with the Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups, and registered heritage places. However, the observed increases were not great enough to counteract the decreases observed across the other three indicators, resulting in a slight decrease in overall cultural well-being (and strong and tolerant community).



As stated above, the cultural well-being (and strong and tolerant community) GPI was relatively unchanged from 2005 to 2009, however over this time there were slight changes in individual indicator index values, but in this case negative changes to some indicators were counter-balanced by positive changes to other indicators. In particular there were further decreases in the percentage of children enrolled in Māori language education, but increases were recorded in the number of registered heritage places, overall positive perception of cultural diversity and the perception that the public understands council decision making.

Overall, from 2001 to 2010 there have been decreases in voter participation, the percentage of children enrolled in Māori language education and a decrease in the percentage of the population that can have an everyday conversation in the Māori language. However, from 2001 to 2010 it has been encouraging to see increases in the number of registered heritage places, overall positive perception of cultural diversity and the perception that the public understands council decision making and the ethnic diversity.

## Discussion

Over the study period there were improvements to four indicators, declines to three indicators, no change to four indicators, and for one indicator it is not possible to identify a trend as only one year of data is currently available.

Whilst little progress has been made in the cultural well-being (or strong and tolerant community) over the study period, as a region our performance in cultural well-being is still relatively high. Overall, people living in the Wellington region have a high level of support available from family and friends during difficult times. This suggests that supporting and maintaining contact with family and friends is important to us. According to the Ministry of Social Development (Ministry of Social Development, 2008) having support networks in place that can be called upon for help during hard times is integral to social cohesion and contributing to a person's well-being.

More recently the social report (Ministry of Social Development, 2010) stated that:

*“Social connectedness refers to the relationships people have with others and the benefits these relationships can bring to the individual as well as to society. These relationships and connections can be a source of enjoyment and support. People who feel socially connected also contribute towards building communities and society. They help to create what is sometimes called “social capital,” the networks that help society to function effectively.”*

The social report (Ministry of Social Development, 2010) also states:

*“Cultural identity is an important contributor to people's well-being. Identifying with a particular culture helps people feel they belong and gives them a sense of security. An established cultural identity has also been linked with positive outcomes in areas such as health and education.”*

The Wellington region is home to people from diverse cultures and lifestyles, and is becoming increasingly diverse. Cultural diversity can make the community and the life we live much richer, with cultural activities contributing to social connectedness. As a region we are generally positive about cultural diversity, we recognise the special role of tangata whenua, and value a population rich in heritage, cultures and languages provides enormous social, cultural and economic benefits. We also believe that the region has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene, and support this by having high attendance at arts events. The arts make a strong contribution to community strength and identity, and are recognised for facilitating communication across social, economic, cultural and ethnic groups.

People's sense of connection with wider society is also reflected in participation in the political process. Voting is a way that people can participate in decision-making, to be fairly represented and to seek redress for discrimination. However, information regarding our progress in this area is mixed. While there has been a decline in voter turnout, there appears to be a strong perception among Wellington residents that they can influence council decision making, and their understanding of the council decision making process has increased.

## 8. Conclusion

The Wellington region GPI (WR-GPI) is a monitoring framework for assessing progress towards the well-being goals of the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS). The monitoring framework currently includes 86 indicators of well-being that measure the region's economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being. This report tracks the current condition (for the 2010 year) and trends (2001-2010) in the indicators of well-being included in the framework. Findings provide Wellington residents with a high level profile of the region's well-being and how it is tracking over time.

Development of the WR-GPI is based on the underlying premise from the WRS that prosperity in the region means more than monetary wealth. It is about ensuring quality of life for all members of society. The WR-GPI enables us to put some measures around the quality of life and well-being of residents in the region through counting beneficial activities as positive and harmful activities as negative. When looking at the findings from the WR-GPI it is important to remember that the GPI is about measuring progress over time rather than about comparing the magnitude of GPI values.

The Wellington region's progress towards the economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being goals, and the Wellington region's overall state of well-being for the period 2001-2010, are described in more detail below.

### **Economic well-being GPI**

Economic prosperity is an important measure of the region's well-being. In the WR-GPI economic well-being is made up of indicators from two community outcome areas – prosperous community and entrepreneurial and innovative community. From 2001 to 2010, there was an increase in the region's GPI for the two community outcomes and for the overall economic well-being area. However, over the last few years a decline has been observed for the prosperous community outcome and the overall economic well-being, as a result of the global financial crisis impacting at a regional level. The impact on progress towards our entrepreneurial and innovative community goals has not been as great, but a decline in business confidence has been observed over recent years which, if it continues, may show further impacts in the future.

### **Environmental well-being GPI**

Environmental well-being is about meeting the environmental needs of today's generation, without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The environmental well-being GPI is represented by only one community outcome called healthy community. This outcome connects to the principles of environmental well-being through its focus on aspiring to have high quality water, air and soils, well-functioning ecosystems and sustainable resource use.

The indicators within the environmental well-being (and healthy environment) GPI indicate that good progress has been made towards the healthy environment community outcome goals. This means that there is an improvement in our overall environmental well-being. In particular, the region has good quality air, soils and water most of the time in most places. The region's residents are also becoming more aware of environmental issues. This has resulted in reduced waste, increased recycling and reduced water use. The indicators currently show that the environment in the Wellington region is in a relatively healthy state.

### **Social well-being GPI**

Social well-being is about the vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through connections to their community as well as having healthy and active lifestyles. The social well-being GPI is made up of indicators from five community outcome areas – healthy community, connected community, sense of place, quality lifestyle and regional foundations. The social well-being GPI indicates no significant trend over the 2001 to 2010 period. However, there are signs of improvement with a slight increase observed over the last two years.

While there has been little change in the region's social well-being from 2001 to 2010, within the social well-being area there was a mix of both positive and negative trends. The sense of place and quality lifestyle GPIs exhibited little change over the study period, but residents were found to have a strong sense of pride in the way their city/region looks and feels, and they largely enjoy living in the region, and generally feeling safe where they live. Wellington region residents also appeared to have high levels of individual happiness, leisure time and overall quality of life.

Over the study period the connected community GPI increased but there were decreases to the regional foundations and healthy community GPIs. The connected community results are encouraging, but the decline in the region's health since 2001 is of concern. Good health enables people to contribute to the economic, social and cultural life in the region, so it is vital to well-being. In the region we are generally positive about our health and our life expectancy has improved. However, we have not made progress on any indicators reflecting the way we live in terms of smoking, drinking, weight and physical activity which are known to increase the risk of many chronic diseases.

The availability of data for a number of social well-being indicators also limits our ability to monitor our progress in this area. The GPI is a long term monitoring tool, and as a region we are just in the early stages of data collection which does have its limitations. However, as more data becomes available over time it will become easier to draw conclusions on our progress in this area.

## **Cultural well-being GPI**

Cultural well-being is about the vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through participation in civics, arts and cultural activities. It is also about recognising and valuing their history, heritage, culture and diversity. The cultural well-being GPI is made up of indicators from one community outcome – strong and tolerant community.

There has been little change over the 2001 to 2010 period towards our strong and tolerant community goals and overall cultural well-being. However as a region, our cultural well-being is relatively high. We recognise that supporting and maintaining contact with family and friends is important. The region is also becoming much more culturally diverse and we are generally positive about the benefits this brings to us as individuals and the wider community. Residents feel the region has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene, and this is supported by high attendance at arts events. However, our performance in other areas has not been as strong. In particular, we have seen a decline in our performance relating to aspects of the Māori language (being able to hold an everyday conversation in te reo Māori and a decline in the proportion of children attending Māori language education) and in relation to civic participation in civic activities.

## **The overall Wellington region GPI**

The overall WR-GPI shows a mixture of positive and negative trends in the region's economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being. These trends have resulted in the Wellington region's overall well-being tracking around 5% higher in 2010 compared to 2001. This suggests that the overall state of well-being in the Wellington region is in an improving condition. However, some areas still need attention. The improvement to the state of the region's well-being is mainly due to progress made in aspects of the region's economic and environmental well-being over the study period. While the slight decline in social and cultural well-being from 2001 to 2007 restricted the progress of the region's overall well-being, the slight gains in these areas of well-being over the last few years is hopefully an indication that further progress is to come.

The GPI is becoming increasingly popular world-wide as a way of measuring a region or nation's well-being. The use of GDP as a proxy measure of societal well-being is increasingly being questioned. However, its value in measuring economic activity in a region or nation is undeniable.

When comparing the Wellington region's real GDP per capita index to the WR-GPI, differences are apparent. The regional economy, in terms of GDP increased at a much faster rate than our overall regional well-being in terms of GPI. This suggests that, over the last decade, some of the benefits of economic growth to society have been off-set by the declines seen in the areas of the region's environmental, social and cultural well-being.

The WR-GPI does not claim to be a perfect measure of the region's well-being. However, it aims to be the best currently possible and through it, it is hoped that we can develop a better understanding of our real progress by focussing on a range of indicators that span the four aspects of well-being. As our understanding of what is truly important for well-being and sustainable development evolves, some indicators within the WR-GPI will emerge as being critical to monitor, while others may become less relevant and new indicators may be needed.

The WR-GPI was established to be a long term monitoring tool and as a region we are only in the early stages of development and data collection. Over time, the WR-GPI will evolve in form and content, with further research, the development of new methods of measurement, and the availability of improved data sources. While this will make it easier to monitor any changes to our well-being it must be remembered that the GPI results cannot always show what is driving any changes. The GPI results will help identify adverse trends at an early stage, and if necessary point us to where there needs to be further analysis to help understand the changes and how we address them.

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## Appendix 1: Well-being and community outcome definitions

Table 1. Definition of economic well-being and its community outcome areas

<b>Economic well-being</b>	<b>Economic well-being is about:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring people have educational opportunities, employment and a decent income.</li> <li>• Supporting businesses and enabling opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship.</li> </ul>
<b>Prosperous community</b>	All members of our community prosper from a strong and growing economy. A thriving business sector attracts and retains a skilled and productive workforce.
<b>Entrepreneurial &amp; Innovative</b>	Innovation, creativity and new endeavors are welcomed and encouraged. Ideas are exchanged across all sectors, resulting in a creative business culture. We have excellent education and research institutions, and benefit from being the seat of government.

Table 2. Definition of environmental well-being and its community outcome area

<b>Environmental well-being</b>	<b>Environmental well-being is about:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting the needs of today's generation, without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Healthy environment</b>	We have clean water, fresh air and healthy soils. Well functioning and diverse ecosystems make up an environment that can support our needs. Resources are used efficiently. There is minimal waste and pollution.

Table 3. Definition of cultural well-being and its community outcome area

<b>Cultural well-being</b>	<b>Social well-being is about:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in civics, arts and cultural activities</li> <li>• recognising and valuing our history, heritage, culture and diversity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Strong &amp; tolerant community</b>	People are important. All members of our community are empowered to participate in decision-making and to contribute to society. We celebrate diversity and welcome newcomers, while recognising the special role of tangata whenua.

**Table 4. Definition of social well-being and its community outcome areas**

<b>Social well-being</b>	<b>Social well-being is about:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• connections to their community</li> <li>• having healthy and active lifestyles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Healthy community</b>	Our physical and mental health is protected. Living and working environments are safe, and everyone has access to health care. Every opportunity is taken to recognise and encourage good health.
<b>Connected community</b>	Our connections and access are efficient, quick and easy – locally, nationally and internationally. Our communication networks, air and sea ports, roads and public transport systems are world class and enable us to link with others, both within and outside the region.
<b>Sense of place</b>	We have a deep sense of pride in the Wellington region and there is strong community spirit. We value the region's unique characteristics – its rural, urban and harbour landscapes, its climate, its central location, and its capital city.
<b>Quality Lifestyle</b>	Living in the Wellington region is enjoyable, and people feel safe. A variety of healthy and affordable lifestyles can be pursued. Our art, sport, recreation and entertainment scenes are enjoyed by all community members - and attract visitors.
<b>Regional foundations</b>	High quality and secure infrastructure and services meet our everyday needs. These are developed and maintained to support the sustainable growth of the region, now and in the future.

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## Appendix 2: WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework indicators

Table 1. WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework indicators in the economic well-being area

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Prosperous community	PC001	Labour force participation rate	Labour force participation	Positive	Stats NZ Household labour force survey	The total labour force (people who are either employed-working at least one hour per week; or unemployed-not in work but available for work and actively seeking work) expressed as a percentage of the working age population (15 years and over)
	PC002	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment	Negative	Stats NZ Household labour force survey	People (15 years and over) who are not in work but are available for work and actively seeking work expressed as a percentage of the total labour force (people (15 years and over) who are either employed-working at least one hour per week; or unemployed-not in work but available for work and actively seeking work)
	PC003	Percentage of employed residents working and living in the same area	Local employment	Positive	Stats NZ census	Total trips to work from the same area expressed as a percentage of the total number of trips to work in the Wellington region
	PC004	P80/P20 ratio of equivalised gross weekly household income	Equity	Negative	Stats NZ New Zealand income survey-customised request	The ratio of the 80th percentile of equivalised disposable household income to the 20th percentile of equivalised disposable household income, when individuals are ranked by their household incomes
	PC005	Purchasing power (median household income adjusted by CPI)	Income	Positive	Stats NZ New Zealand income survey	Median weekly household income adjusted by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (a measure of the average price of consumer goods and services purchased by households)
	PC006	Value of household and community work	Value of unpaid work	Positive	Stats NZ (Time use survey) minimum wage	Calculated by multiplying hours spend on unpaid work (including household work, caregiving for household members, purchasing goods and services for own household, and unpaid work outside the home) by the national minimum wage and adjusting by CPI

Table 1. Continued...

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Prosperous community	PC007	Value of building consents (residential and non-residential)	Building activity	Positive	Stats NZ	The value of new building consents (residential and non-residential) adjusted by CPI
	PC008	Percentage of the working age population with no educational qualifications	Educational qualification of the workforce	Negative	Stats NZ census	The working age population (15 years and over) with no education qualifications expressed as a percentage of the working age population (15 years and over)
Entrepreneurial & innovative community	EI001	Percentage of GDP spent on Research & Development	Investment in R&D	Positive	Stats NZ R&D survey	Gross expenditure on research and development in the Wellington region expressed as a percentage of the Wellington region GDP
	EI002	Business start-ups as a percent of business turnover (start-ups and closures)	Business growth	Positive	Stats NZ Business frame	Business start-ups expressed as a percentage of business turnover (start-ups and closures)
	EI003	Percentage of workforce employed in highly skilled occupations (ANZSIC 06 code M)	Highly skilled workforce	Positive	Stats NZ Business frame	People employed in highly skilled occupations (scientific research, architecture, engineering, computer systems design, law, accountancy, advertising, market research, management and other consultancy, veterinary science and professional photography-Stats ANZSIC 06 code M) expressed as a percentage of employed people
	EI004	Percentage of school leavers with NCEA level 2 or above	School leaver qualifications	Positive	Ministry of Education	The total number of school leavers who attained an NCEA level 2 qualification or above as at the time they left school in a given school year expressed as a percentage of the total number of school leavers in a given school year

\*Positive influence: increases in numerical values indicate a positive influence (improvement) in well-being; Negative influence: increases in numerical values indicate a negative influence (decline) in well-being

**Table 2. WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework indicators in the environmental well-being area**

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Healthy environment	HE001	Air quality	Air quality	Positive	GWRC Environment	The number of days sampled where PM <sub>10</sub> levels were at excellent or good category levels (<5-16µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) expressed as a percentage of the total number of days sampled
	HE002	Residents rating of air pollution	Perception of air pollution	Negative	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that thought air pollution had been a problem over the last 12 months
	HE003	Fresh water quality for recreation	Fresh water quality	Positive	GWRC Environment	The number of freshwater swimming spots sampled that meet New Zealand's guidelines for recreational water quality on 95-100% of samples expressed as a function of the total number of swimming spots sampled
	HE004	Coastal/marine water quality for recreation	Coastal/marine water quality	Positive	GWRC Environment	The number of coastal swimming spots sampled that meet New Zealand's guidelines for recreational water quality on 95-100% of samples expressed as a function of the total number of swimming spots sampled
	HE005	Groundwater quality	Groundwater quality	Positive	GWRC Environment	The number of groundwater monitoring sites that have median nitrate concentrations in the <0.002-3.0mg/l range expressed as a function of the total number of groundwater sites monitored
	HE006	Stream and river health	Stream and river health	Positive	GWRC Environment	The number of monitoring sites which recorded an MCI grade of excellent or good (MCI = 100+) expressed as a function of the total number of monitoring sites
	HE007	Per capita water supply	Water supply	Negative	GWRC-water supply annual report and TAs	The average total water supply per day, for all purposes, divided by the estimated resident population
	HE008	Soil quality of dairy farm sites	Dairy farm soil quality	Positive	GWRC Environment	The number of dairy monitoring sites with no more than one soil quality indicator outside the target range expressed as a function of the total number of dairy monitoring sites

Table 2. Continued...

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Healthy environment	HE009	Soil quality of drystock sites	Drystock soil quality	Positive	GWRC Environment	The number of drystock monitoring sites with no more than one soil quality indicator outside the target range expressed as a function of the total number of drystock monitoring sites
	HE010	Volume diverted from landfills per capita	Recycling	Positive	GWRC measuring up report	Kilograms of material diverted from landfills for recycling, divided by the estimated resident population
	HE011	Landfill waste per capita	Landfill waste	Negative	GWRC measuring up report	Kilograms of material landfilled, divided by the estimated resident population
	HE012	QEII covenanted areas	QEII covenants	Positive	QEII Trust	The area of registered and approved covenanted land (ha) in the Wellington region
	HE013	Erosion prone land under effective management	Erosion control	Positive	GWRC Environment	The area of erosion prone land under effective management expressed as a percentage of the area of erosion prone land in the region
	HE014	Total Ecological footprint (local hectares per capita)	Ecological footprint	Negative	MfE: Ecological footprints of NZ and its regions	The amount of land (per capita) that is required to sustain the region at current levels
	HE015	Total energy consumption per capita	Energy use	Negative	GWRC regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory tool	The total apparent energy consumption from all sources divided by the estimated resident population
	HE016	Greenhouse gas emissions per capita	Greenhouse gas emissions	Negative	GWRC regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory tool	The net annual emissions of all greenhouse gases divided by the estimated resident population
	HE017	Biodiversity indicator	Biodiversity	N/A	N/A	Needs to be explored to get full region

\*Positive influence: increases in numerical values indicate a positive influence (improvement) in well-being; Negative influence: increases in numerical values indicate a negative influence (decline) in well-being

**Table 3. WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework indicators in the social well-being area**

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Connected community	CC001	Peak AM/PM congestion rates	Congestion	Negative	GW AMR/NZTA	The average seconds of delay per kilometre travelled on a sample of Wellington's strategic road networks (Waikanae to Wellington airport; Upper Hutt to Wellington Railway Station; Porirua to Seaview (via SH58); Karori to Island Bay) at peak times of day during the working week
	CC002	Ease of walking around the region	Ease of walking	Positive	GW AMR	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that rated getting around the Wellington region by walking as good
	CC003	Ease of cycling around the region	Ease of cycling	Positive	GW AMR	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that rated getting around the Wellington region by cycling as good
	CC004	Active mode share of total household travel	Active travel	Positive	MoT TMIF indicator TP005	Walking and cycling share of total trip legs (a surveying unit of non-stop travel by a single mode for a single purpose) by people aged 5 and over resident in a main urban area (population centres of 30,000 people or more)
	CC005	Public transport patronage (ferry, bus, train)	Public transport patronage	Positive	MoT TMIF indicator TV020	The total number of public transport (bus, rail and ferry) boardings divided by the estimated resident population
	CC006	Percentage of people living within 400m of public transport stop	Access to public transport	Positive	GW AMR	The number of people living within 400m (distance measured along the roading network) of a public transport stop with a regular service expressed as a function of the usually resident population count on census night
	CC007	Ease of making a journey across the region by public transport	Ease of using public transport	Positive	GWRC Annual PT satisfaction monitor	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that thought that making a journey across the region by public transport is somewhat easy, very easy or extremely easy

Table 3. Continued...

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Connected community	CC008	Percentage of households with access to a motor vehicle	Access to a motor vehicle	Positive	Stats NZ census	The number of households with access to at least one motor vehicle expressed as a function of the total number of households
	CC009	Percentage of households with access to the internet	Home internet access	Positive	Stats NZ census	The number of households with access to the internet expressed as a function of the total number of households
	CC010	Percentage of households with access to broadband	Broadband access	Positive	Stats NZ ICT survey	The number of households with access to broadband expressed as a function of the total number of households
Quality lifestyle	QL001	Percentage of population living in deprivation	Living in deprivation	Negative	University of Otago: Department of public health	The number of people living in areas rated deciles 8, 9 or 10 (most deprived) on the NZ Deprivation Index (a measure of relative socio-economic deprivation) expressed as a function of the resident population
	QL002	Percentage of households that spend more than 30% of their disposable income on housing	Housing affordability	Negative	Stats NZ: Household economic survey - customised request	The percentage of households that spend more than 30% of their disposable income on housing
	QL003	Percentage of population living in crowded households	Crowded households	Negative	Stats NZ census	The percentage of the population in households requiring at least one additional bedroom
	QL004	Number of households on Housing New Zealand waiting lists	Housing waiting lists	Negative	Housing New Zealand Corporation	The average number of households per year on Housing New Zealand waiting lists



Table 3. Continued...

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Quality lifestyle	QL005	Percentage of people that are positive about their quality of life	Perception of quality of life	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that thought their quality of life was good or extremely good
	QL006	Residents rating of their happiness	Self-reported happiness	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that said in general they are happy or very happy
	QL007	Residents satisfaction with work/life balance	Work-life balance	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that feel satisfied or very satisfied with the balance
	QL008	Residents sense of safety (amalgamation of 5 QoL questions)	Sense of safety	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The average percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that felt fairly safe or safe in their home during the day, in their home after dark, walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in their city centre during the day or in their city centre after dark
	QL009	Recorded offences for crimes against the person- rate per 10,000 people	Crime against people	Negative	Stats NZ recorded offences	The number of recorded crimes in the categories violence, sexual, disorder, family offences, and family offences continued expressed as a rate per 10,000 people
	QL010	Recorded offences for crimes against property- rate per 10,000 people	Crime against property	Negative	Stats NZ recorded offences	The number of recorded crimes in the categories burglary, car conversion etc, theft, property damage and property abuse expressed as a rate per 10,000 people
	QL011	Ease of access to local parks or other green space	Access to open spaces	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that thought it was easy or very easy to get to a local park or other green space in their city or local area
	QL012	Participation in social activities	Participation in social activities	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that indicated that they participate in to two or more of the following networks/groups: a sports club, a church or spiritual group, a hobby or interest group, a community or voluntary group, a network of people from work or school, gym/walking group, age specific group, or ethnic/cultural group

Table 3. Continued...

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Quality lifestyle	QL013	Visitor guest nights	Visitor guest nights	Positive	Stats nz accommodation survey	The number of guest nights, where a guest night is equivalent to one guest spending one night at an establishment, at short-term (less than one month) commercial accommodation providers that have a turnover of at least \$30,000 per annum.
Sense of place	SP001	Percentage of people that feel a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels	Sense of pride in city	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that agreed or strongly agreed that they felt a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels
	SP002	Perception that graffiti, vandalism and litter is a problem	Perception of graffiti, vandalism & litter	Negative	Quality of Life survey	The average percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that thought graffiti, vandalism or litter had been a problem in their local area over the last 12 months
	SP003	Percentage of people who think the Wellington Region is a great place to live	Region as great place to live	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SP004	Residents' sense of community in local neighbourhood	Sense of community	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that agreed or strongly agreed that they felt a sense of community with others in their local neighbourhood
	SP005	Residents reported contact with friends and family	Contact with friends and family	Positive	MSD social report: Stats NZ general social survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region aged 15 and over who said the amount of contact they have with friends and family who do not live with them is about right
	SP006	Volunteerism rates	Volunteering rates	Positive	Stats NZ census	The number of people indicating that they have done "other help or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae" in the last 4 weeks expressed as a function of the usually resident population aged 15 years and over

Table 3. Continued...

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Regional foundations	RF001	Water allocation compared to total water resource	Sustainable water use	Negative	Stats NZ; Ministry for the Environment	The ratio between water allocation and total water resource in the region
	RF002	Perception of council services such as water supply, drainage, rubbish collection and roads	Perception of council services	Positive	Stats NZ General social survey customised request	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region aged 15 and over that were either satisfied or very satisfied about the quality of council services such as water supply, drainage, rubbish collection and roads in their area
	RF003	Perception of road network reliability	Perception of road network reliability	Positive	GWRC transport perceptions survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that rated the road network as reliable
	RF004	Perception of public transport reliability	Perception of public transport reliability	Positive	GWRC transport perceptions survey	The average percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that rated the bus and train network as reliable
	RF005	Security of electricity supply - number of days with loss of supply	Power outages	N/A	N/A	N/A
Healthy community	HC001	Prevalence of overweight / obesity	Obesity	Negative	PHIonline NZ Health survey	The age standardised percentage of people aged 15 years and over classified as overweight or obese according to the body mass index
	HC002	Prevalence of hazardous drinking	Risky alcohol consumption	Negative	PHIonline NZ Health survey	The age standardised percentage of people aged 15 years and over reporting a hazardous drinking pattern
	HC003	Prevalence of adults participating in regular physical activity	Physical activity	Positive	PHIonline NZ Health survey	The age standardised percentage of people aged 15 years and over who did 30 minutes of activity a day on 5 or more of the past 7 days
	HC004	Prevalence of smoking	Smoking	Negative	PHIonline NZ Health survey	The age standardised percentage of people aged 15 years and over reporting they have smoked more than 100 cigarettes in lifetime and currently smoke monthly or more

Table 3. Continued...

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Healthy community	HC005	Number of reported road injuries per 100,00 population	Road injuries	Negative	NZTA CAS	The number of reported road injuries expressed as a rate per 100,000 people
	HC006	Residents perception of their health	Perception of health	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that rated their health as good, very good or excellent
	HC007	Residents regularly experiencing stress	Stress	Negative	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that experienced stress always or most of the time in the past 12 months
	HC008	Expected years of life from birth	Life expectancy	Positive	Stats NZ	The average length of life remaining at birth
	HC009	FTEs for GPs per 100,000 people	Access to primary health care	Positive	Medical council of NZ: medical workforce survey	The number of FTEs for GPs at all work sites expressed as a rate per 100,000 people
	HC010	Avoidable hospital admissions rate per 1,000 people	Avoidable hospital admissions	Negative	MoH Information Directorate customised order	The number of hospital admissions which could have potentially been avoided by timely access to primary health care services or other ambulatory services such as outpatient services expressed as a rate per 1,000 people
	HC011	Amenable mortality rate per 1,000 people	Avoidable deaths	Negative	MoH Information Directorate customised order	The number of deaths which could have potentially been avoided through population-based interventions such as health promotion as well as those responsive to preventative and curative interventions at an individual level expressed as a rate per 1,000 people

\*Positive influence: increases in numerical values indicate a positive influence (improvement) in well-being, Negative influence: increases in numerical values indicate a negative influence (decline) in well-being

**Table 4. WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework indicators in the cultural well-being area**

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Strong & tolerant community	ST001	Residents perceptions of availability of support	Perception of social support	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that thought they had someone to turn to for help if they were faced with a serious illness, injury, or needed emotional support at a difficult time
	ST002	Average voter turnout in local council, DHB and regional council elections	Voter turnout	Positive	DIA Local authority election statistics	The average of regional council, DHB and TLA election voter turnouts where voter turnout is defined as the total number of voters expressed as a function of the total number of possible voters (electors)
	ST003	Perception that the public understands council decision making	Perception of understanding of council decisions	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that agreed or strongly agreed that overall, they understand how my council makes decisions
	ST004	Perception that the public can influence Council decision making	Perception of influence on council decisions	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that thought the public had some influence or a large influence on the decisions the council makes
	ST005	Overall positive perception of cultural diversity	Perception of cultural diversity	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that thought that an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures makes their area a better or much better place to live
	ST006	Percentage of people who can speak Te Reo Māori	Speakers of Te Reo Maori	Positive	Stats NZ census	The number of people indicating that they can have a conversation about everyday things in the Maori language expressed as a function of the usually resident population
	ST007	Percentage of the population identifying with the Maori, Pacific and	Ethnic diversity	Positive	Stats NZ	The number of people identifying with the Maori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups expressed as a function of the usually resident population

Table 4. Continued...

Community outcome area	Indicator number	Indicator name	Website name	Well-being influence*	Data source	Definition
Strong & tolerant community	ST008	Listed and registered heritage places	Heritage places	Positive	NZ historic trust	The number of heritage listings on the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register
	ST009	Perception of the role of culture and cultural activities in forming a sense of national identity	Perception of role of culture in forming national identity	Positive	Ministry for Culture and Heritage	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that believe that culture and cultural activities are very, extremely or critically important to New Zealand's sense of national identity
	ST010	Overall positive perception of a rich and diverse arts scene	Perception of arts scene	Positive	Quality of Life survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region that agree or strongly agree that the area they live in has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene
	ST011	Percentage of people attending arts events	Attendance at arts events	Positive	Creative NZ New Zealanders and the arts survey	The percentage of respondents in the Wellington region, age 15 years and over, that have attended at least one arts event (including visual arts, performing arts, literature, Māori arts and Pacific arts) in the past 12 months
	ST012	Percentage of children enrolled in Te Kohanga Reo and Maori medium schools	Children enrolled in Maori language education	Positive	Ministry of Education	The number of children enrolled in licensed te kohanga reo services and Maori medium education expressed as a function of the total number of enrolments in licensed early childhood services and schools

\*Positive influence: increases in numerical values indicate a positive influence (improvement) in well-being, Negative influence: increases in numerical values indicate a negative influence (decline) in well-being

## Appendix 3: Economic well-being indicators

### Prosperous community indicators

Prosperous community indicators have been selected to measure progress towards the prosperous community outcome definition goals for the region. Focus has been given to aspects of the workforce, levels of employment and aspects of income.

In total eight indicators are included in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework that form part of the prosperous community outcome area. Each indicator is assigned a symbol to represent how the data trend relates to well-being progress (refer to the symbol key in Table 1, page 14).

For a full list of prosperous community indicators, including the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources refer to Appendix 2, Table 1.

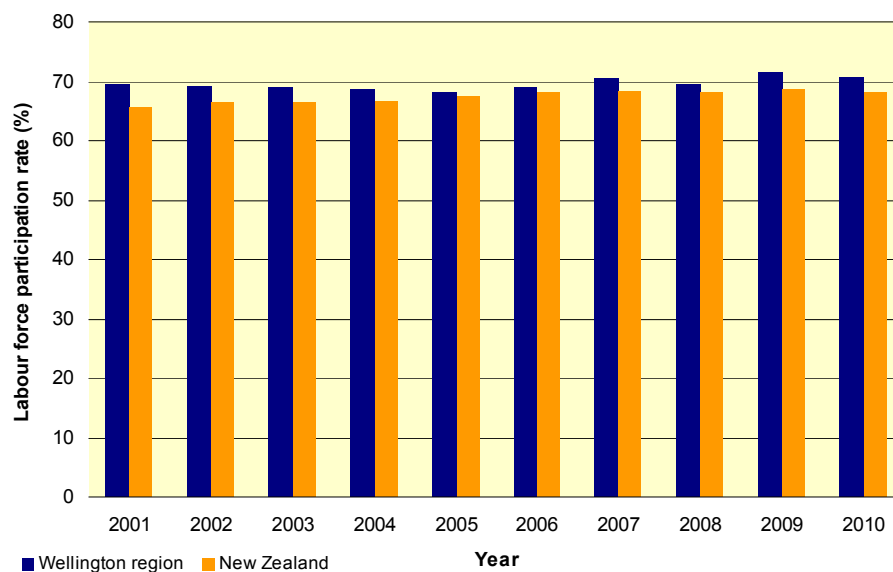
## 1. Labour force participation



### **There has been little change in the labour force participation rate since 2001**

The size of the labour force is critical to New Zealand's capacity to produce goods and services. Short-term changes in the participation rate can often be traced to job market conditions. A job market in which employment is growing often encourages more people to participate.

**Labour force participation, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

### **Findings**

- The Wellington region labour force participation rate was 70.6% in 2010.
- The labour force participation rate has remained relatively constant over the study period, with only a 1.7 % increase from 2001 to 2010.
- The Wellington region labour force participation rate has consistently been above the national average rate from 2001 to 2010. However, over this period the New Zealand participation rate has increased by 4% compared to a 1.7% increase in the Wellington region.
- In 2010, the Wellington region labour force participation rate was 2.5 percentage points higher than the New Zealand rate.

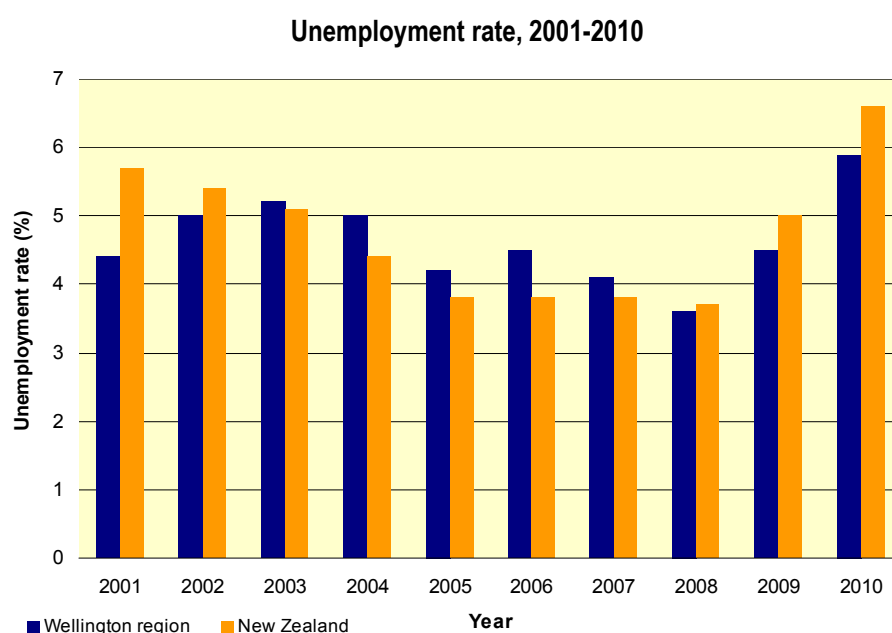


## 2. Unemployment rate



**The 2010 annual unemployment rate has increased compared to 2001**

Employment for all is an important social goal. Unemployment increases the risk of poverty and is associated with stress, financial insecurity, poor health conditions, and a wide range of social problems. These associated problems carry with them costs not only for the individual, but for their family and the community. Therefore, an increase in the unemployment rate increasingly results in a decline in well-being.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

### Findings

- In 2010, the unemployment rate in the Wellington region was 5.9%.
- The unemployment rate in the Wellington region increased from 2001 to 2003, and then generally decreased to its lowest level over the 2001-2010 period in 2008. However, since this time there have been rapid increases in the region's unemployment rate.
- Similar changes in the New Zealand unemployment rate have also been observed.
- Over the last few years, the unemployment rate in the Wellington region has been below the New Zealand rate.

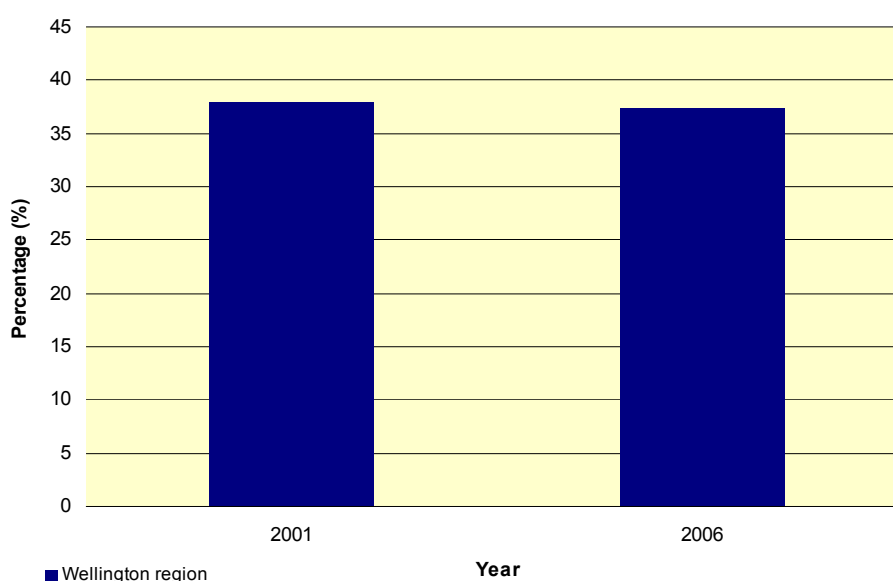
### 3. Percentage of employed residents working and living in the same area



**There has been little change in the percentage of residents living and working in the same area from 2001 to 2006**

Local employment is integral to a sustainable society. People who live and work in an area are more likely to shop locally and become embedded in the local community, contributing to the community spirit. Local employment also has environmental benefits, as decreased travel times reduce greenhouse gas emissions and helps the employed attain a better work-life balance.

**Percentage of employed residents working and living in the same area, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Census

#### **Findings**

- In 2006, 37.3% of employed Wellington region residents lived and worked in the same area.
- The percentage of employed residents living and working in the same area has remained relatively unchanged from 2001 to 2006 (38.0% to 37.3%).

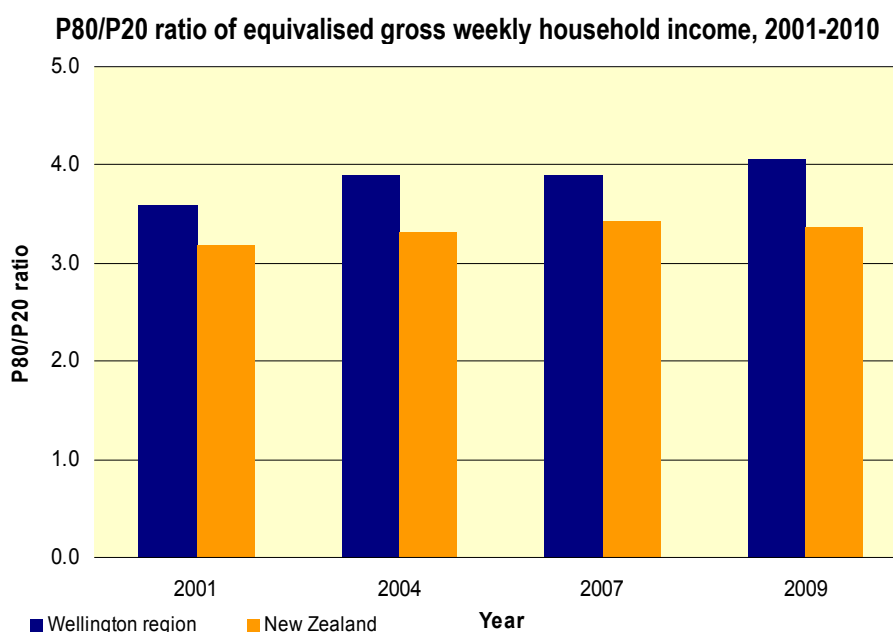
#### 4. P80/P20 ratio of equivalised gross weekly household income



##### **The P80/P20 ratio of household incomes widened between 2001 and 2009**

The degree of income inequality is often regarded as an important aspect of the fairness of the society we live in. A high level of income inequality may also be detrimental to the level of social connectedness across society.

The P80/P20 ratio is calculated as the ratio of the household income at the 80th percentile (i.e. 20 percent below the wealthiest household) to the household income at the 20th percentile (i.e. 20 percent above the lowest income household) (Perry, 2005). Overall, as household income inequality increases the P80/P20 ratio also increases, and therefore the more unequal society is.



Source: Derived from Statistics New Zealand Household Economic Survey by Market Economics Ltd

#### **Findings**

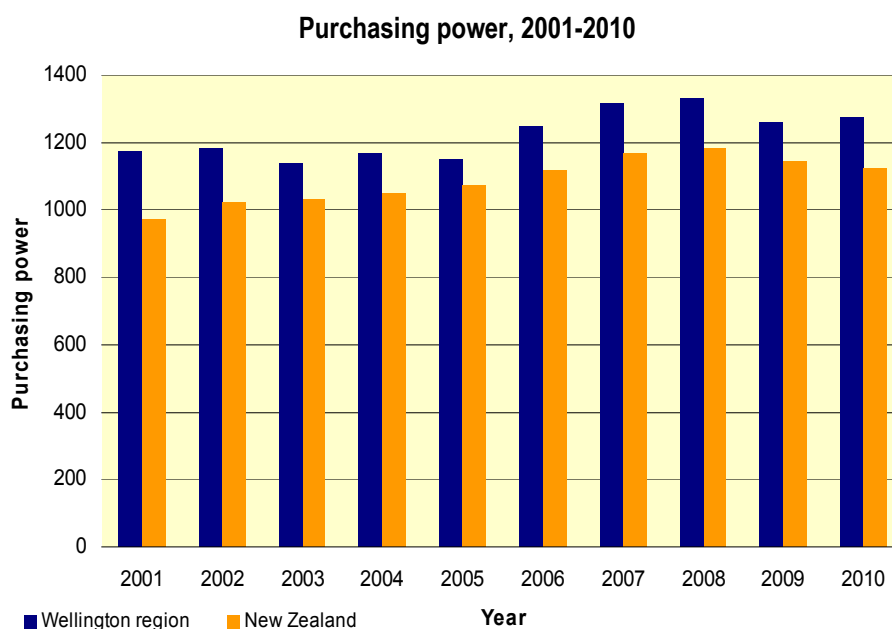
- In 2009, the P80/P20 ratio of equivalised gross weekly household income was 4.06 in the Wellington region.
- The P80/P20 ratio of equivalised gross weekly household income in the Wellington region has steadily increased from 3.59 in 2001 to 4.06 in 2009.
- Over the same period there have been increases in New Zealand's P80/P20 ratio of equivalised gross weekly household income, but these have been at a lower rate than that in the Wellington region.
- Also, the P80/P20 ratio of equivalised gross weekly household income has been consistently higher in the Wellington region than New Zealand overall.

## 5. Purchasing power



### Household purchasing power is greater in 2010 compared to 2001

Purchasing power is the number of goods or services that can be purchased with a unit of currency. If income stays the same but the price of goods and services increase, the purchasing power of that income falls. Research suggests that households with less purchasing power may feel greater anxiety and shame about their lot in comparison with those better off. Over time, this negative emotion can lead to stress, which in turn can lead to adverse physical health outcomes. Also, households with lower purchasing power suffer adverse health effects from not having decent living conditions or adequate access to resources, such as health care, nutritious food, and housing, which affects overall well-being.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

### Findings

- In 2010, the CPI adjusted median weekly household income in the Wellington region was \$1272.73
- The purchasing power of households in the Wellington region has fluctuated from 2001 to 2010. However, the purchasing power has increased from \$1172.37 to \$1272.73, indicating that households have 7.6% more purchasing power in 2010 compared to 2001.
- From 2001 to 2010, the purchasing power of households in the Wellington region has consistently been above the national median.

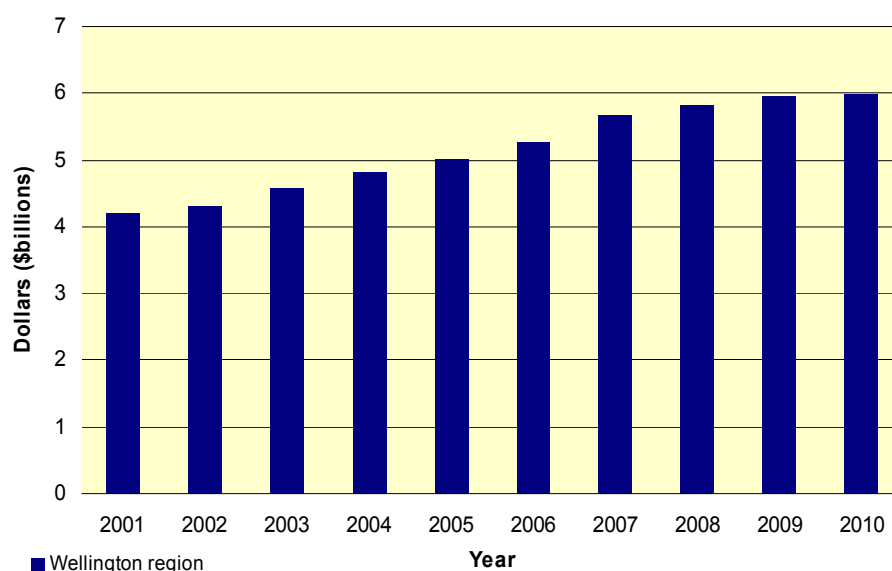
## 6. Value of household and community work



### **The value of household and community work has increased from 2001 to 2010**

The valuable services resulting from unpaid household and community work contribute directly to our well-being and prosperity, but tend to be excluded in conventional economic statistics. As well as the economic value of these unpaid services, it has been argued that the work performed in households is more essential to basic survival and quality of life than much of the work done in the market place. Also a society's commitment to community work is a measure of the strength of its social networks and social cohesion.

**Value of household and community work, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Time Use Survey

### **Findings**

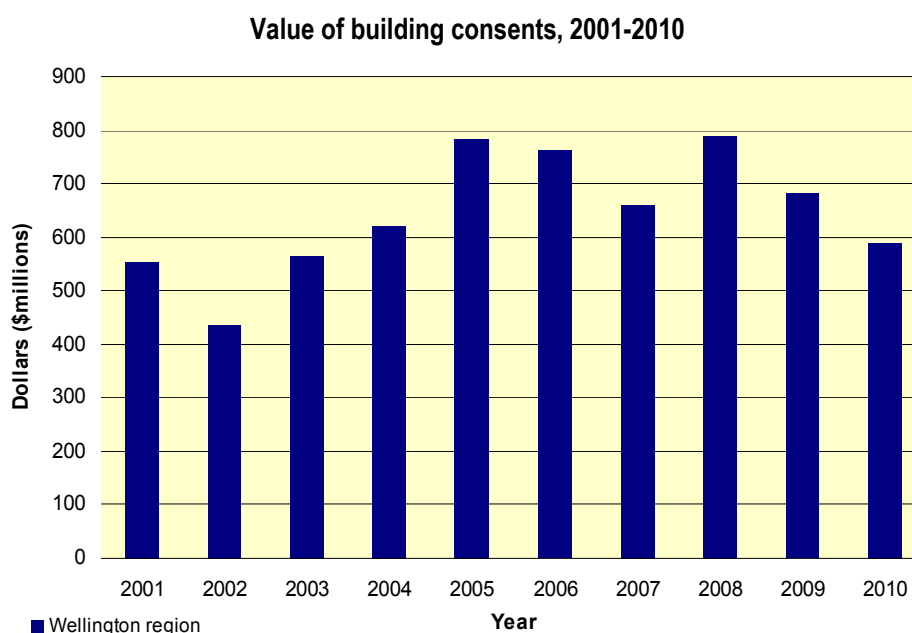
- The value of unpaid household and community work in Wellington region was estimated to be \$5.97 billion in 2010.
- The value of unpaid household and community work in Wellington region is estimated to have increased by 42.4% (\$4.19 billion to \$5.97 billion) from 2001 to 2010.

## 7. Value of building consents



### The value of building consents is higher in 2010 than 2001

This indicator is a proxy for business confidence in the regional economy. If a business or individual is willing to invest in the fixed capital expenditure of property development they must have some belief that conditions within the economy will maintain current levels or potentially improve.



Source: Statistics New Zealand building consents

### Findings

- In 2010, the real value of building consents in the Wellington region was \$590 million.
- Between 2001 and 2010, the real value of building consents in the Wellington region has fluctuated. However, the real value of building consents is 6.6% higher in 2010 (\$590 million) compared to 2001 (\$554 million).

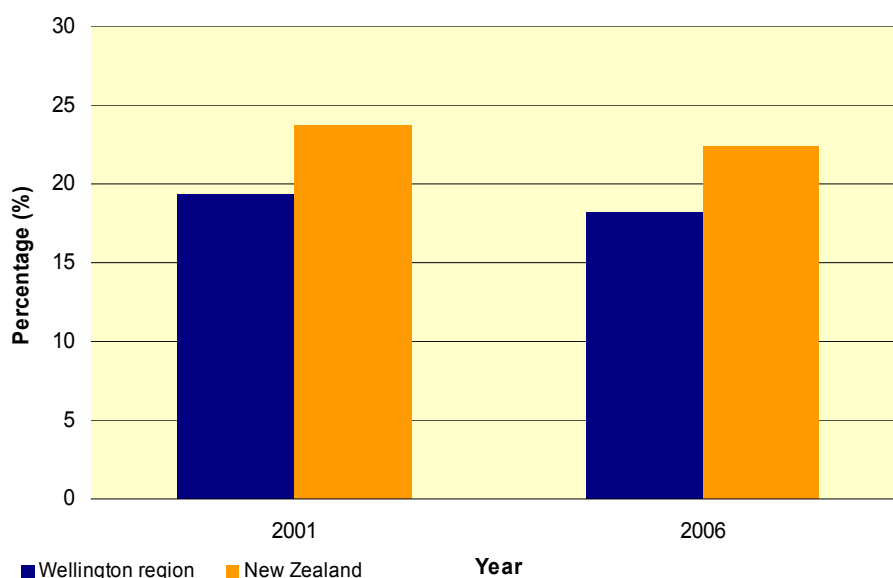
## 8. Percentage of the working age population with no educational qualifications



**The percentage of the working age population with no educational qualifications has decreased slightly from 2001 to 2006**

The educational attainment of the adult population is an indicator of the skills available to the economy. The level of formal educational qualifications is a commonly used proxy of human capital. A higher level of human capital can improve economic efficiency by providing organisations and individuals with knowledge and skills for economic development. Educational attainment is also important for participation in society and personal satisfaction.

**Percentage of the working age population with no educational qualifications, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Census

### Findings

- The percentage of the working age population in the Wellington region with no educational qualifications was 18.1% in 2006, a slight decrease from 2001 (19.3%).
- The percentage of the working age population in the Wellington region with no educational qualifications was below the national rate in both 2001 and 2006. However, the national rate has also decreased from 2001 to 2006 (23.7% to 22.4%).

## **Entrepreneurial and innovative community indicators**

Entrepreneurial and innovative community indicators have been selected to measure progress towards the entrepreneurial and innovative community outcome definition goals for the region. The outcome definition focuses on research and development activity and link to business confidence and activity.

In total four indicators are included in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework that form part of the entrepreneurial and innovative community outcome area. Each indicator is assigned a symbol to represent how the data trend relates to well-being progress (refer to the symbol key in Table 1, page 14).

For a full list of entrepreneurial and innovative community indicators, including the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources refer to Appendix 2, Table 1.



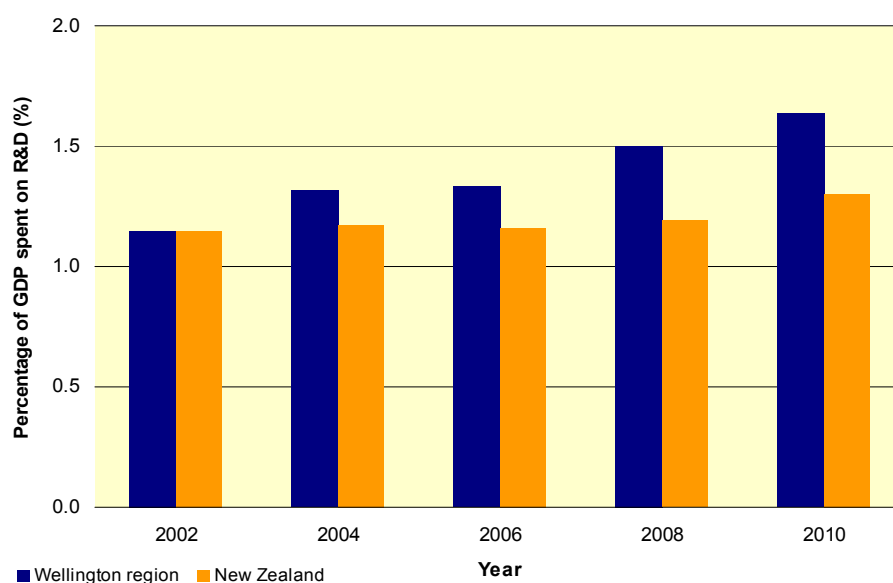
## 1. Percentage of GDP spent on research and development



### **The percentage of GDP spent on research and development has increased since 2001**

Research and development (R&D) is important for economic growth and for sustaining a dynamic economy capable of competing successfully on the international stage. R&D generates new knowledge which in turn leads to innovation and positive change that can also improve well-being.

**Percentage of GDP spent on research and development, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Research and Development Survey and BERL

### **Findings**

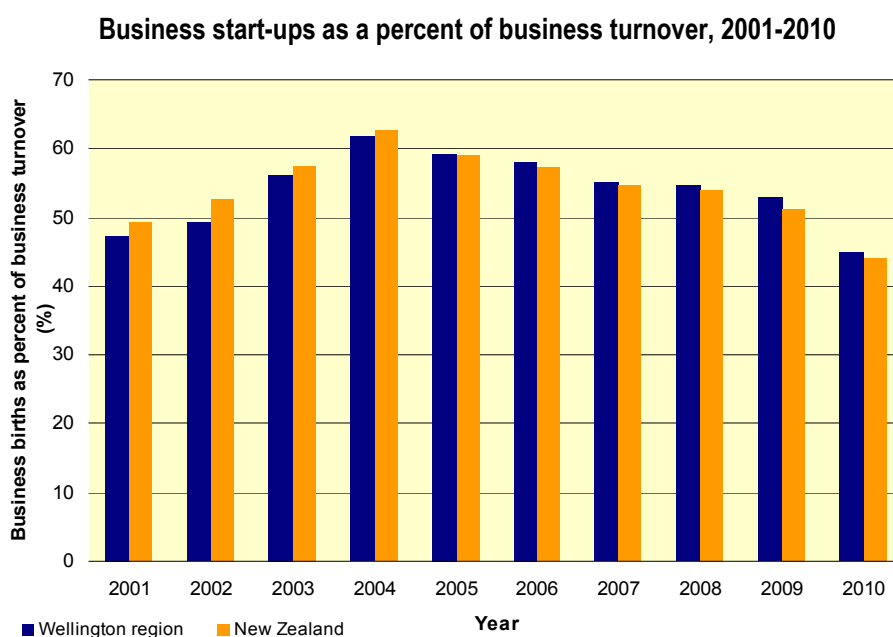
- In 2010, 1.6% of GDP in the Wellington region was spent on R&D.
- The percentage of GDP spent on R&D has increased from 1.2% in 2002 to 1.6% in 2010.
- The percentage of GDP spent on R&D in the Wellington region has consistently been above the national level since 2002.

## 2. Business start-ups as a percent of business turnover (start-ups and closures)



**The number of business start-ups has decreased since 2004, whereas the number of business closures has increased. This has resulted in a decrease of business start-ups as a percent of business turnover**

This indicator is a comprehensive indicator of business activity as a whole. It shows whether there is an increase in business confidence and is a proxy for the level of entrepreneurial activity.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

### Findings

- In 2010, business start-ups made up 44.9% of business turnover in the Wellington region, indicating that the number of business start-ups was slightly less than the number of business closures.
- Since Statistics New Zealand improved their data collection methods in 2004, the number of business start-ups has been higher than the number of closures in all years except 2010. However, the number of start-ups has gradually decreased since 2004 and the number of closures has increased.
- A similar profile is also observed for New Zealand over this time.

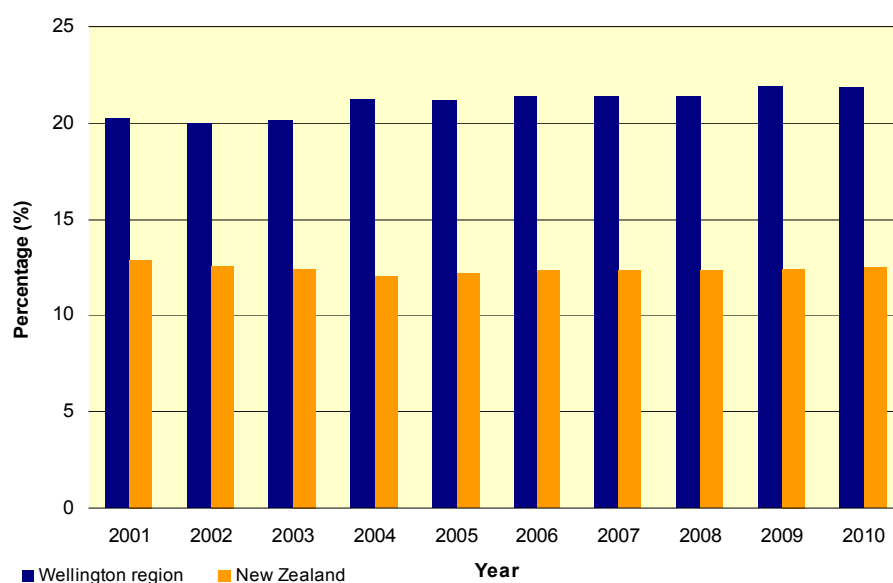
### 3. Percentage of workforce employed in highly skilled occupations



**The percentage of the workforce employed in highly skilled occupations has increased slightly since 2001**

The skills available within an area will limit its capacity to support particular industries and consequently its outlook for economic growth. Areas where the requisite skills base and knowledge capacity are in place are more likely to attract particular industries, which will lead to more dynamic economic outcomes.

**Percentage of workforce employed in highly skilled occupations,<sup>8</sup> 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Business Frame

#### Findings

- In 2010, 21.8% of the Wellington region workforce was employed in highly skilled occupations.
- The percentage of the workforce employed in highly skilled occupations has increased slightly, from 20.2% in 2001 to 21.8% in 2010.
- The percentage of the workforce employed in highly skilled occupations in the Wellington region has consistently been above the national rate from 2001 to 2010. Over this time there has been little change in the percentage of the workforce employed in highly skilled occupations in New Zealand overall.

<sup>8</sup> Refer to Appendix 2, Table 1 for a definition of 'highly skilled occupations'.

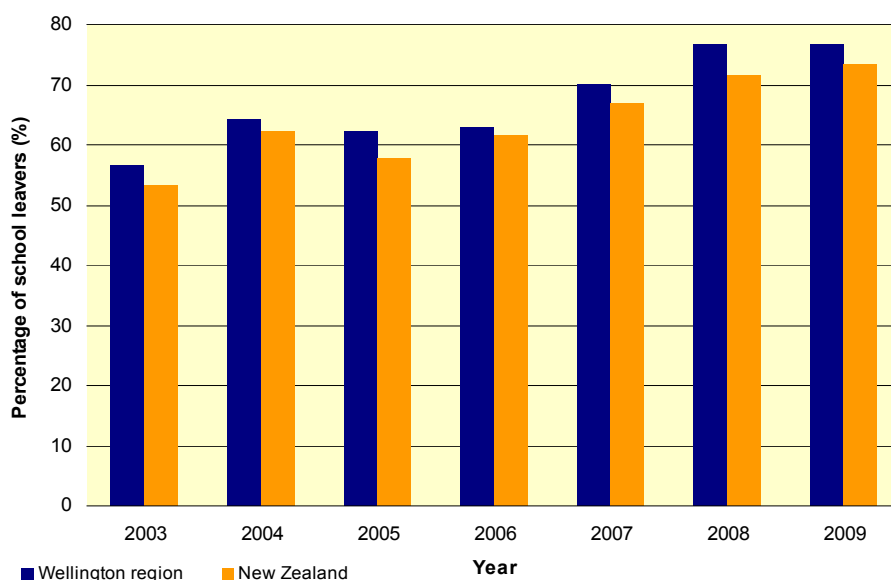
#### 4. Percentage of school leavers with NCEA level 2 or above



##### **The percentage of school leavers with NCEA level 2 or above has increased since 2003**

Upper secondary school qualifications, currently NCEA level 2, serves as the foundation for higher (post-secondary) learning and training opportunities as well as the preparation for direct entry into the labour market. Those that leave education early with few qualifications are at much greater risk of unemployment or vulnerability in the labour force, of having low incomes, and may not value the benefit of ongoing education.

**Percentage of school leavers with NCEA level 2 or above, 2001-2010**



Source: Ministry of Education<sup>9</sup>

#### **Findings**

- In 2009, 76.9% of school leavers in the Wellington region left school with a qualification at NCEA level 2 or above.
- The percentage of school leavers in the Wellington region with NCEA level 2 or above has increased from 56.6% in 2003 to 76.9% in 2009.
- A similar trend is also observed for New Zealand overall, however the percentage of school leavers in the Wellington region with NCEA level 2 or above has consistently been above the national rate from 2003 to 2009.

<sup>9</sup> Due to changes in the qualification structure, it is not possible to compare exactly the attainment of upper secondary school students who left before 2003 with those who left in 2003 or later.

## Appendix 4: Environmental well-being Healthy indicators

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### Healthy environment indicators

Healthy environment indicators have been selected to measure progress towards the healthy environment community outcome definition goals for the region. The outcome definition covers different aspects of the physical environment but focuses on the quality aspect of the environment with less emphasises on having resources in sufficient quantity.

In total 16<sup>10</sup> indicators are included in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework that form part of the healthy environment community outcome area. Each indicator is assigned a symbol to represent how the data trend relates to well-being progress (refer to the symbol key in Table 1, page 14).

For a full list of healthy environment indicators, including the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources refer to Appendix 2, Table 2.

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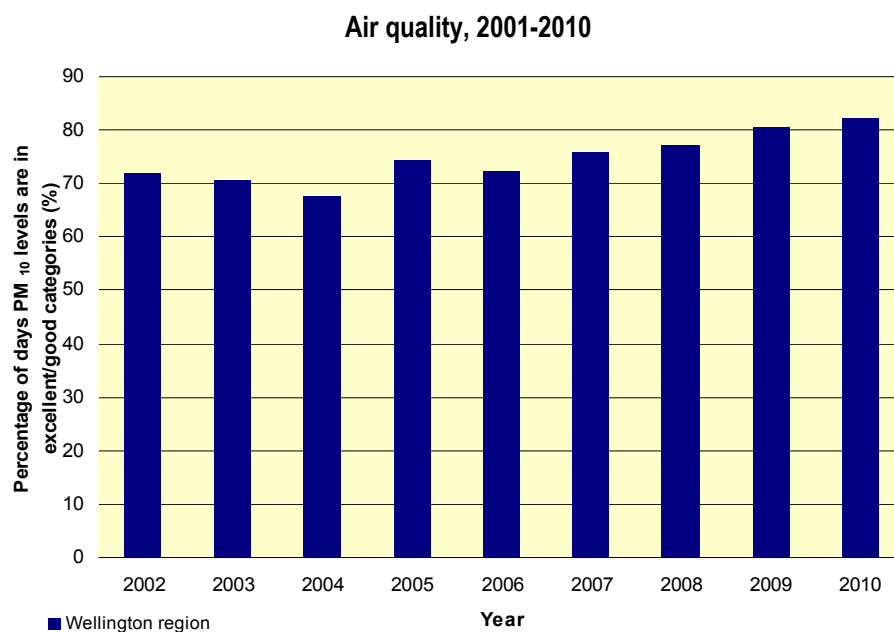
<sup>10</sup> There are 17 indicators included in the WR-GPI framework that form part of the healthy community outcome area, however one of these indicators does not currently have a data source attributable to it so is not included in this report.

## 1. Air quality



**Air quality is within acceptable limits most of the time, and has improved slightly since 2001**

Without clean air, we can expect ongoing damage to our health, our ecosystems and our economy. Long-term exposure to suspended particles (PM<sub>10</sub>) is linked to adverse health effects in the population. Air quality varies from year-to-year and from place to place due to the effect of weather and topography on the dispersion of air pollutants.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council<sup>11</sup>

### Findings

- Air quality in the region is within acceptable limits in most places, most of the time.
- In 2010, PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations at monitored sites in the Wellington region were at good/excellent levels on 82.2% of days.
- Even though the number of monitoring sites has changed over the study period, long-term trends show a slight improvement in the region's air quality.

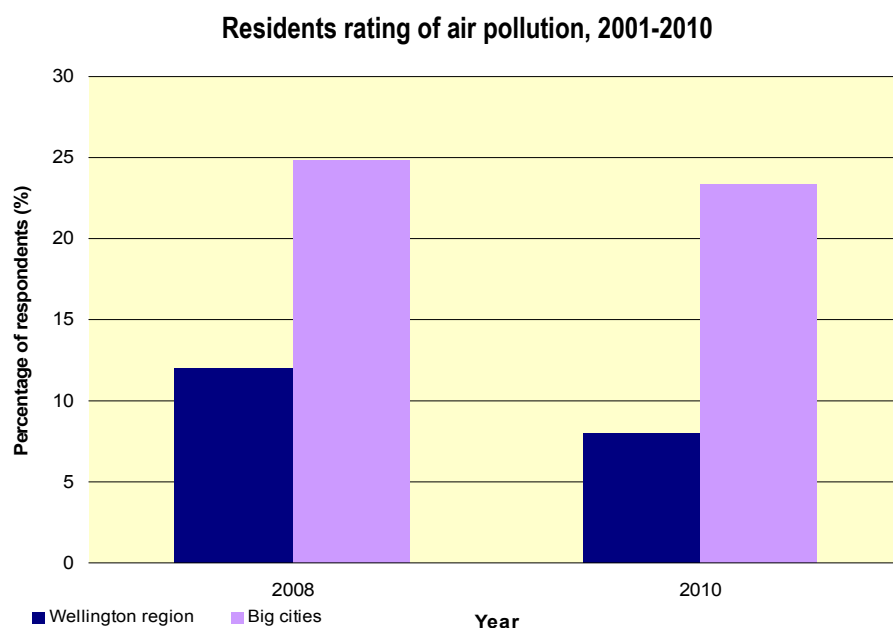
<sup>11</sup> Note that only selected sites are monitored around the region, and the number of sites monitored has changed over the study period.

## 2. Residents rating of air pollution



**The proportion of residents perceiving that air pollution had been a problem in the last 12 months decreased between 2008 and 2010**

Good air quality is fundamental not only to people's health and well-being but also to the quality of the natural and physical environment. Air pollution can reduce our level of enjoyment of a place and effect the overall perception of our region.



Source: Quality of Life survey

### Findings

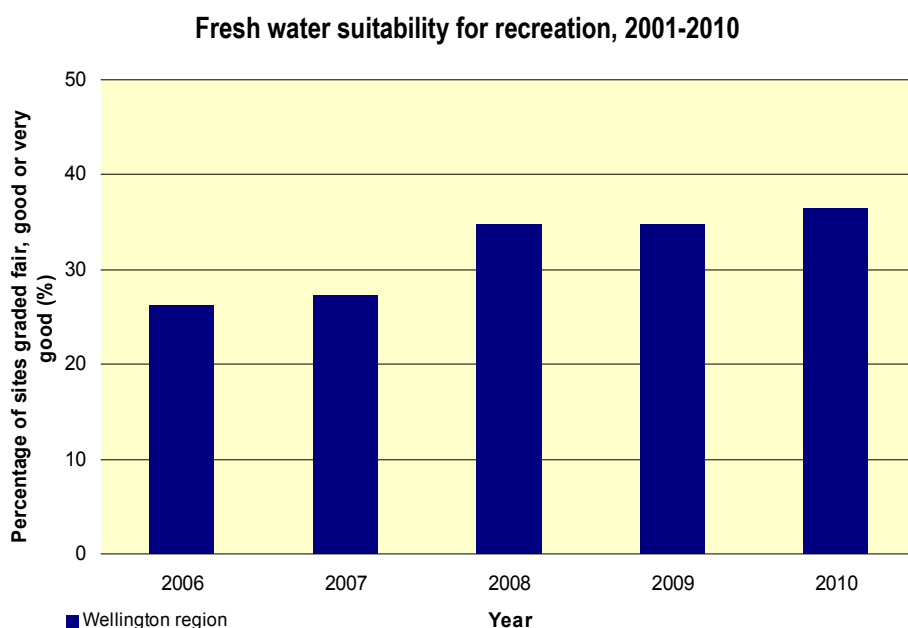
- In 2010, 8% of the Wellington region adult population thought that air pollution had been a problem within the last 12 months.
- The percentage of the Wellington region that thought that air pollution had been a problem within the last 12 months decreased from 2008 to 2010 (12% to 8%).
- Compared to the population of the participating eight big cities, in both 2008 and 2010 much lower percentages of the Wellington region adult population thought that air pollution had been a problem within the last 12 months.

### 3. Fresh water suitability for recreation



**Freshwater sites with a suitability for recreation grading of fair, good or very good have increased between 2006 and 2010**

Clean water for recreational purposes is fundamental to enjoyment of life and ensuring people are not exposed to significant health risks. Clean fresh water is also important for tourism as well as fishing activities.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council<sup>12</sup>

### Findings

- In 2010, 36% of monitored fresh water recreation sites were given suitability for recreation grades of fair, good or very good over the summer bathing months.
- Even though the number of monitoring sites has changed slightly over the study period, long-term trends show an increase in the number of freshwater sites with a suitability for recreation grading of at least fair.

<sup>12</sup> Note that only selected sites are monitored around the region, and the number of sites monitored has changed over the study period. Measurements are only taken over the summer bathing months.

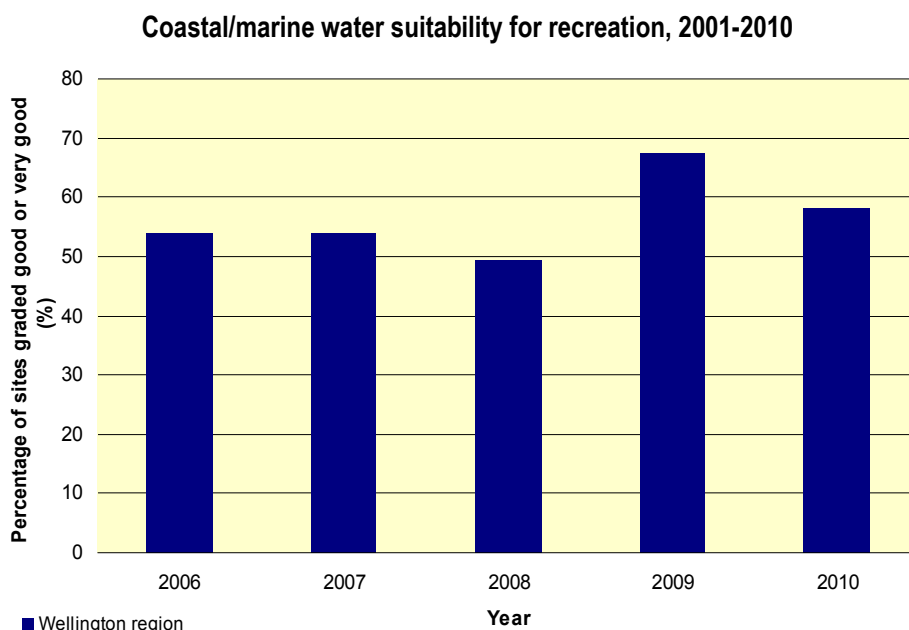


#### 4. Coastal/marine water suitability for recreation



**Coastal/marine water sites with a suitability for recreation grading of good or very good have fluctuated between 2006 and 2010**

The region's coastal beaches are widely used for a range of recreational activities such as swimming, sailing, surfing, water skiing and underwater diving. Clean coastal water is important for tourism and is fundamental to enjoyment of life. Maintaining and protecting coastal water quality is therefore an important public health and resource management issue.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council<sup>13</sup>

#### Findings

- Coastal/marine recreation sites show better suitability for recreation grades than freshwater sites.
- In 2010, 58% of monitored coastal/marine recreation sites were given suitability for recreation grades of good or very good over the summer bathing months.
- The percentage of coastal/marine recreation sites with a suitability for recreation grading of good or very good has fluctuated over the monitoring period, so little long-term change is evident.

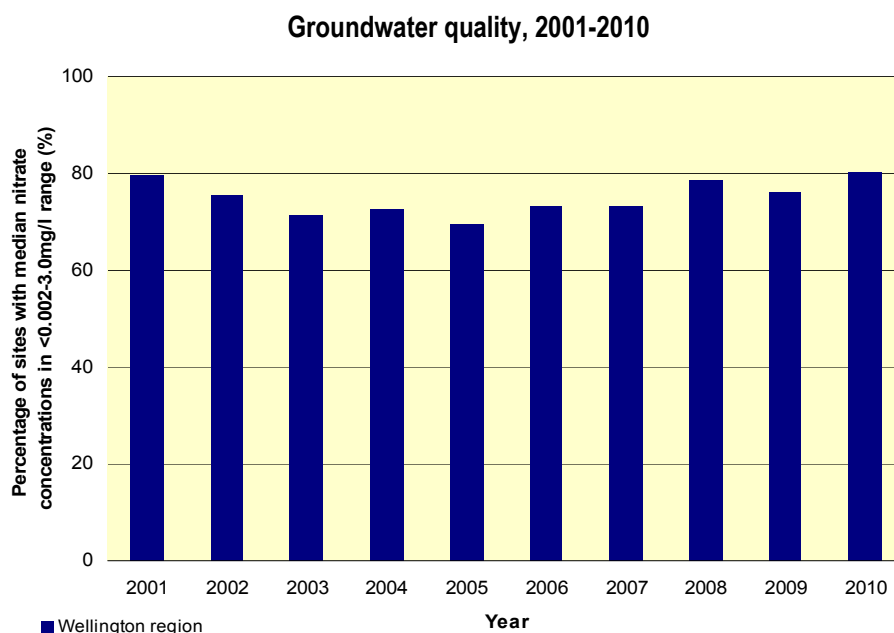
<sup>13</sup> Note that only selected sites are monitored around the region, and the number of sites monitored has changed over the study period. Measurements are only taken over the summer bathing months.

## 5. Groundwater quality



**There has been little change in groundwater quality between 2001 and 2010**

Nitrate is a commonly measured indicator of groundwater quality. Compliance with the national drinking water standard should ensure that it is safe for the water to be used for human (and stock) consumption. Elevated nitrate concentrations may indicate a health risk as well as a risk of adverse impacts on the water quality in rivers and lakes, and in freshwater ecosystems. Greater Wellington Regional Council uses a threshold of less than 3mg/L of nitrate (measured as nitrate nitrogen) as their indicator of good water quality.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council<sup>14</sup>

### Findings

- In 2010, median nitrate concentrations were low (<3mg/L) in 80% of monitored bores.
- There has been little change in groundwater quality over the 2001 to 2010 study period.

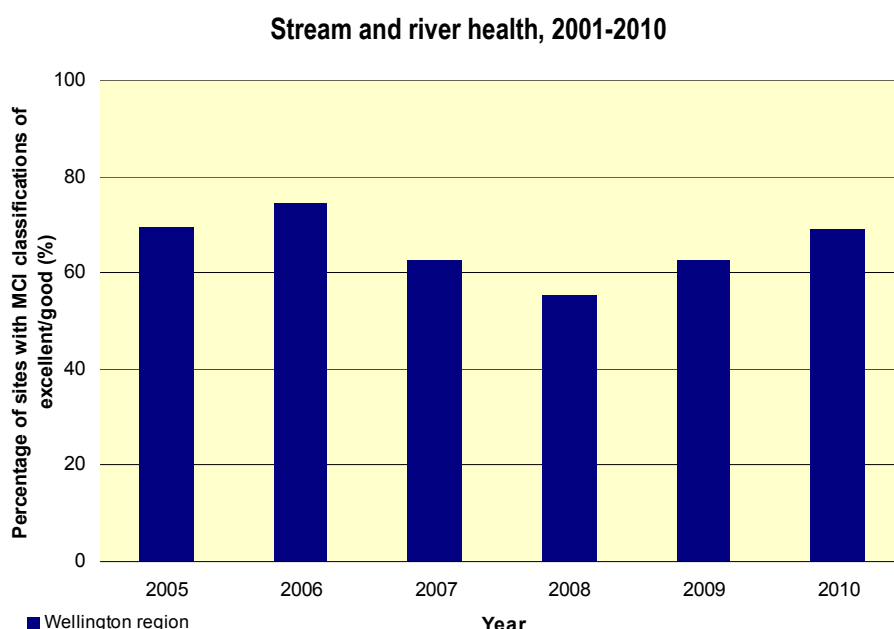
<sup>14</sup> Note that only selected sites are monitored around the region, and the number of sites monitored has changed over the study period. Groundwater quality, particularly in shallow aquifers, is also strongly influenced by rainfall and river flows.

## 6. Stream and river health



**The proportion of sites with a macroinvertebrate community index class of good or excellent has fluctuated, with the proportion in 2010 similar to that recorded in 2005**

Macroinvertebrates are good indicators of the life-supporting capacity of streams and rivers as well as the ecological health of a stream or river. The condition of stream and river systems also represents an integration of land use activities. Stream and river health is therefore an effective indicator of wider catchment health and the sustainability of land uses. Safeguarding freshwater systems is essential to providing for human uses and protecting biodiversity.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council<sup>15</sup>

### Findings

- In 2010, 69% of monitored sites had a macroinvertebrate community index (MCI) classification of good or excellent.
- The majority of sites in the excellent MCI class are located in catchments dominated by indigenous forest cover.
- The percentage of sites with an MCI of good or excellent has fluctuated over the monitoring period, with the percentage in 2010 similar to that recorded in 2005.

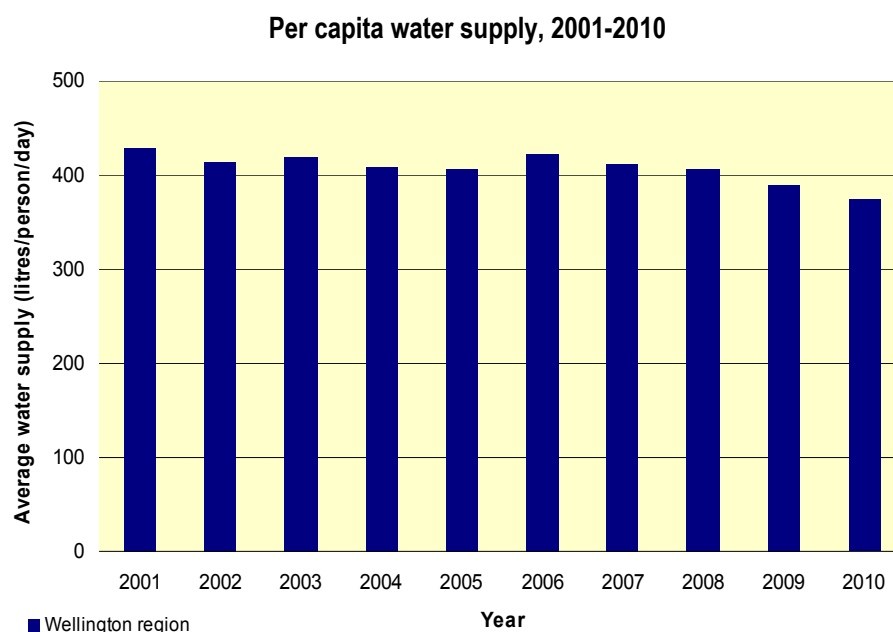
<sup>15</sup> Note that only selected sites are monitored around the region, and the number of sites monitored has changed over the study period.

## 7. Per capita water supply



**The average daily water supply per person fluctuated at the start of the century but decreased between 2006 and 2010**

Water is crucial to our welfare, and to much of the environment and economy. The efficient management of water resources is essential to individual and community well-being, and to the protection of biodiversity and ecological systems.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council, Kapiti Coast District Council,<sup>16</sup> Masterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council and Carterton District Council<sup>17</sup>

### Findings

- In 2010, average daily water supply<sup>18</sup> in the Wellington region was 374.3 litres/person.
- Average daily water supply per capita fluctuated between 2001 and 2006, but has gradually decreased since this time.
- The average daily water supply per capita was 13% lower in 2010 compared to 2001.

<sup>16</sup> Water supply from Kapiti Coast District Council only includes Paraparumu and Waikanae.

<sup>17</sup> Water supply from Carterton District Council only includes residential town supply, CBD and Waingawa.

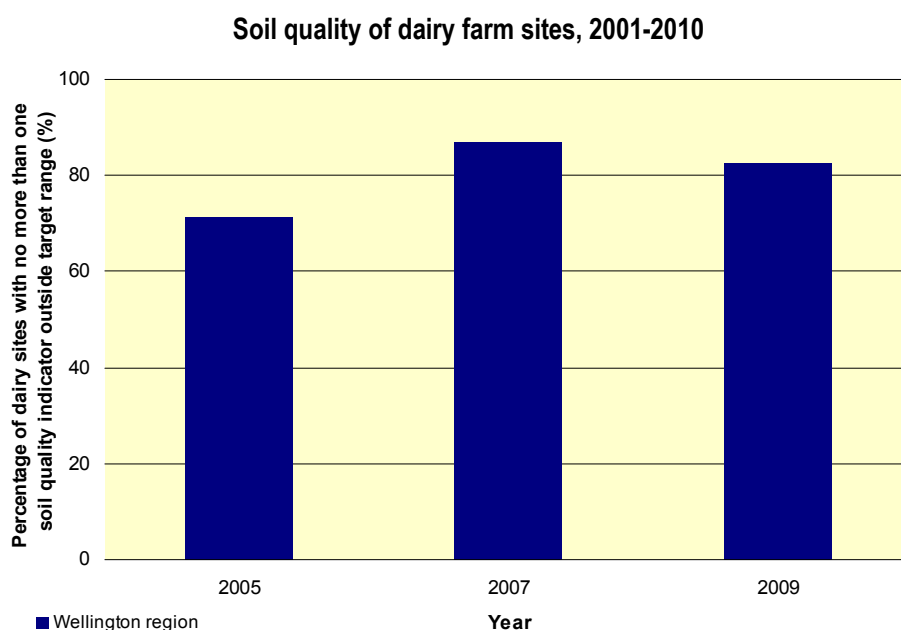
<sup>18</sup> Water leaks are also included in these figures.

## 8. Soil quality of dairy farm sites



**The percentage of dairy farm sites with no more than one soil quality indicator outside the target range increased between 2005 and 2009**

The health of the region's high quality soils is integral to primary land uses such as dairying, cropping and horticulture. Soil health can be affected by loss of organic matter, a breakdown of soil structure, erosion by wind and water or chemical contamination. If more than one of the core physical or chemical soil quality indicators is outside the target range for a particular land use, soil quality may be compromised for that land use with potential adverse effects on ground or surface water quality. Dairy farming is one of the most intensive land uses so it is deemed important to monitor the soil at these sites.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council<sup>19</sup>

### Findings

- In 2009, 83% of dairy farm sites had no more than one soil quality indicator outside the target range.
- The percentage of dairy farm sites with no more than one soil quality indicator outside the target range decreased between 2007 and 2009, however 2009 levels remain higher than those observed in 2005.

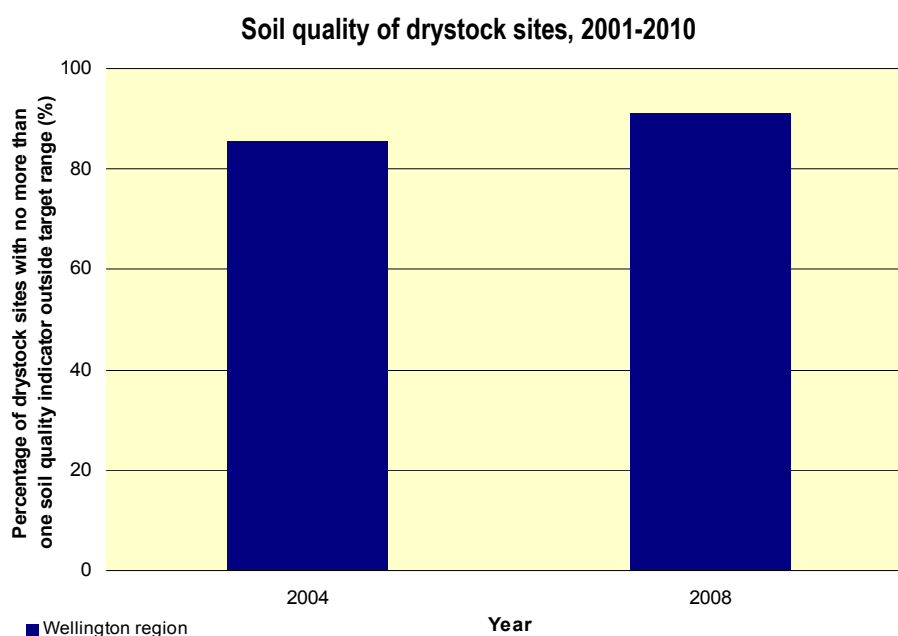
<sup>19</sup> Note that only selected sites are monitored around the region, and the number of sites monitored has changed slightly over the study period.

## 9. Soil quality of drystock sites



**The percentage of drystock sites with no more than one soil quality indicator outside the target range increased between 2004 and 2008**

The health of the region's high quality soils is integral to primary land uses such as dairying, cropping and horticulture. Soil health can be affected by loss of organic matter, a breakdown of soil structure, erosion by wind and water or chemical contamination. If more than one of the core physical or chemical soil quality indicators is outside the target range for a particular land use, soil quality may be compromised for that land use with potential adverse effects on ground or surface water quality. Drystock sites were selected as these cover the greatest land area across the Wellington region.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council<sup>20</sup>

### Findings

- In 2008, 91% of drystock sites had no more than one soil quality indicator outside the target range.
- The percentage of drystock sites with no more than one soil quality indicator outside the target range increased between 2004 and 2008. However with only two data points available this trend should be treated with caution.

<sup>20</sup> Note that only selected sites are monitored around the region, and the number of sites monitored has changed slightly over the study period.

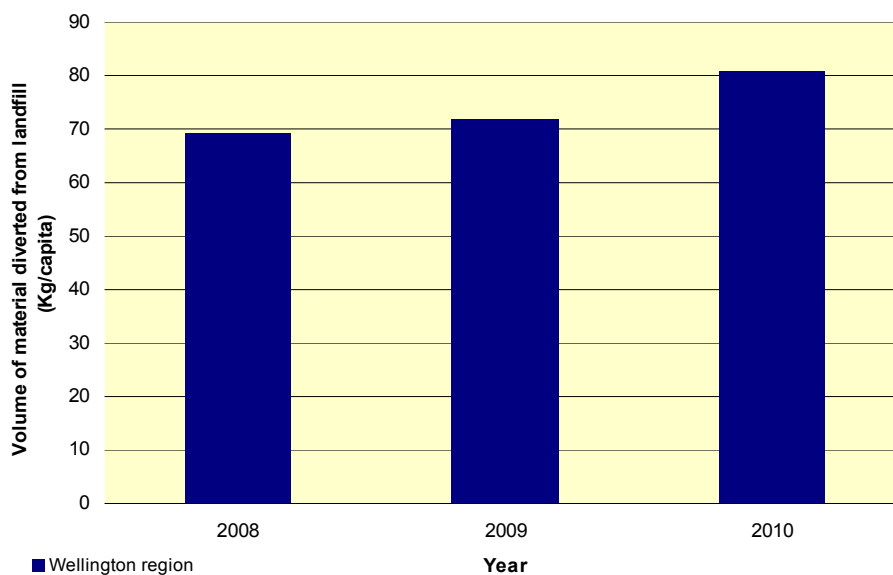
## 10. Volume diverted from landfills per capita



**The volume of material recycled per person has increased since 2008**

Material diverted from landfill is a measure of recycling, and is indicative of the community's commitment to sustainable practices. Recycling reduces waste disposal, which is expensive and may cause environmental problems, it also saves landfill space and reduces the demand for raw materials and energy used to make the product in the first place.

**Volume diverted from landfills per capita, 2001-2010**



Source: Wellington regional waste assessment report, 2011

### Findings

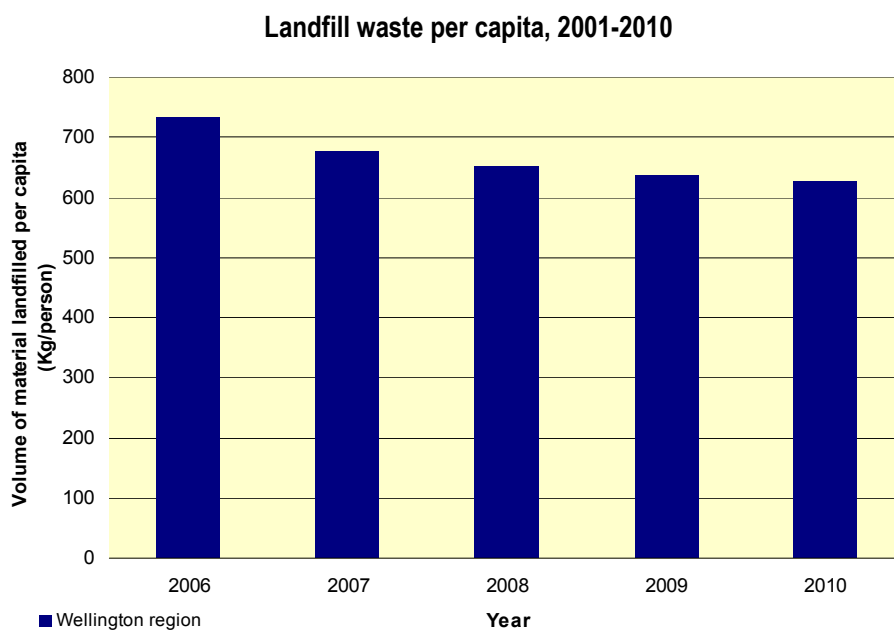
- 39,100 tonnes of material was diverted from landfill in 2010, resulting in 80.9 kg of material recycled per person.
- Recycling in the region has increased steadily from 2008 to 2010, from 69.2 kg/person to 80.9 kg/person.

## 11. Landfill waste per capita



**The amount of material landfilled per person has decreased steadily since 2006**

Waste represents a loss of resource, both in the form of material and energy. The treatment and disposal of waste may cause environmental pollution and expose humans to harmful substances and bacteria that affect human health. Landfill waste is an indicator of the volume of resources being consumed. Waste to landfill generates offensive odours, greenhouse gases, and may cause pollution.



Source: Wellington regional waste assessment report, 2011

### Findings

- In 2010, around 302,500 tonnes of material was landfilled, meaning 625.9 kg of material was landfilled per person.
- The amount of landfill waste and the amount of landfill waste per person has decreased each year from 2006 to 2010.

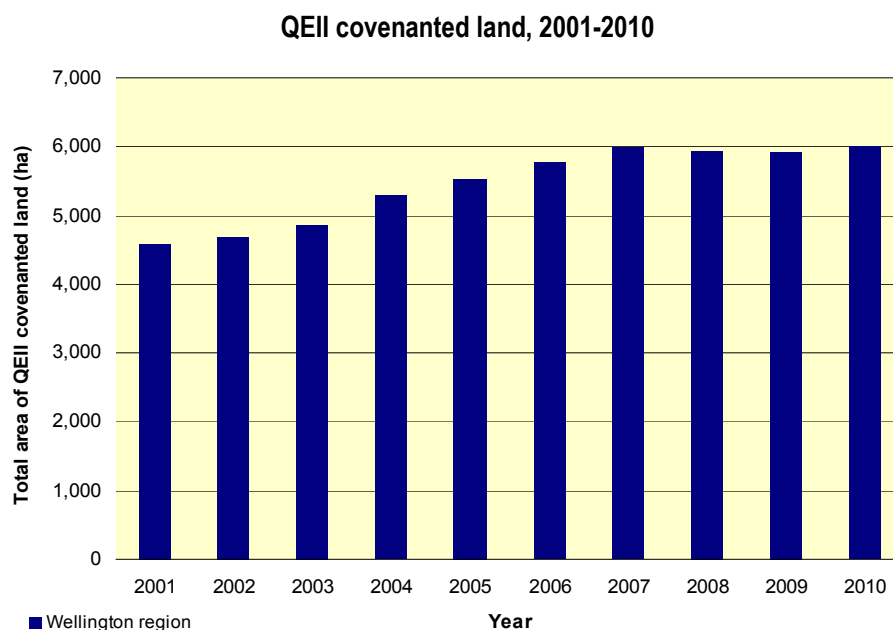


## 12. QEII covenanted land



**Land under QEII covenant has increased from 2001 to 2007 and has remained relatively unchanged since this time**

The loss of natural habitats and the declining diversity of our indigenous flora and fauna are regarded as one of our biggest environmental problems. A number of indigenous species are already extinct and many others are under threat. Open space covenants help to protect New Zealand's unique natural and cultural heritage. This heritage helps to define our sense of national identity and contributes to our enjoyment and appreciation of New Zealand.



Source: QEII Trust

### Findings

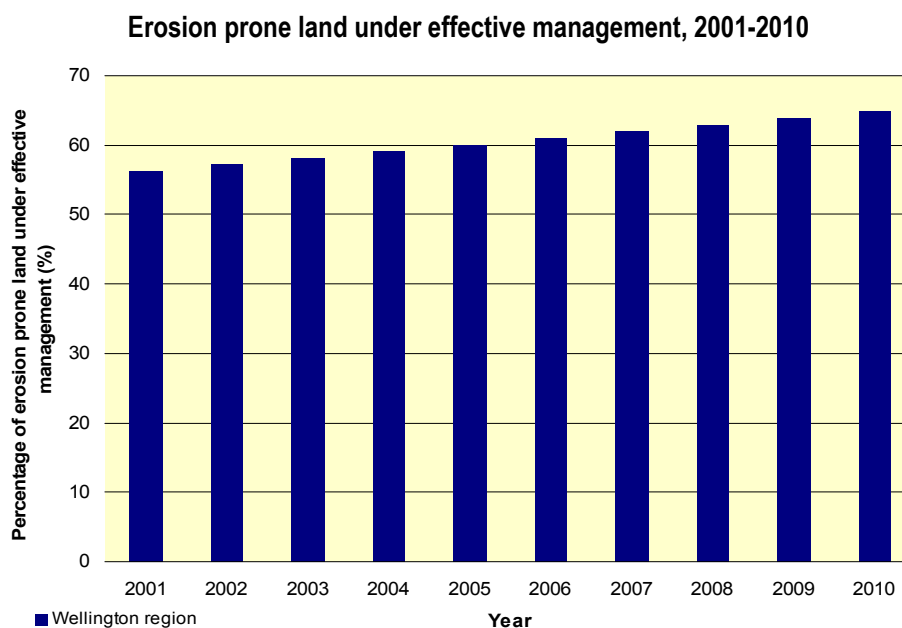
- 6,011ha of land in the Wellington region was registered under QEII covenant in 2010.
- The area of land registered under QEII covenant increased steadily between 2001 and 2007, but has remained relatively unchanged since this time.

### 13. Erosion prone land under effective management



**The area of erosion prone land under effective management has increased from 2001 to 2010**

Protecting erosion-prone hill country prevents damage to both rural and urban businesses, communities and infrastructure. Heavy rain and other adverse weather events can increase the risk of erosion in the hill country. Erosion leads to flooding, which in turn can devastate farm production and cause adverse environmental effects off-site.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council

#### Findings

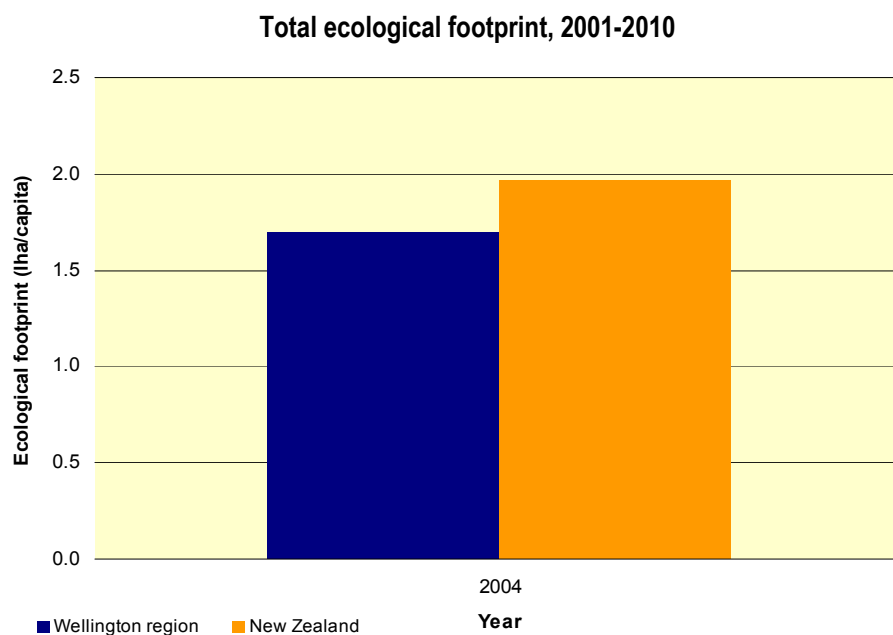
- In 2010, 64.9% of erosion prone land in the Wellington region was under effective management.
- The area of erosion prone land under effective management has increased from 2001 to 2010.

## 14. Total ecological footprint



No trend data is currently available

Ecological footprint is widely used as an indicator of environmental sustainability. It is an estimate of the amount of biologically productive land and sea area needed to regenerate (if possible) the resources a human population consumes and to absorb and render harmless the corresponding waste. Understanding the ecological footprint may help safeguard our ecosystems and life-supporting services that enable the biosphere to provide for all in the long-term.



Source: Ministry for the Environment

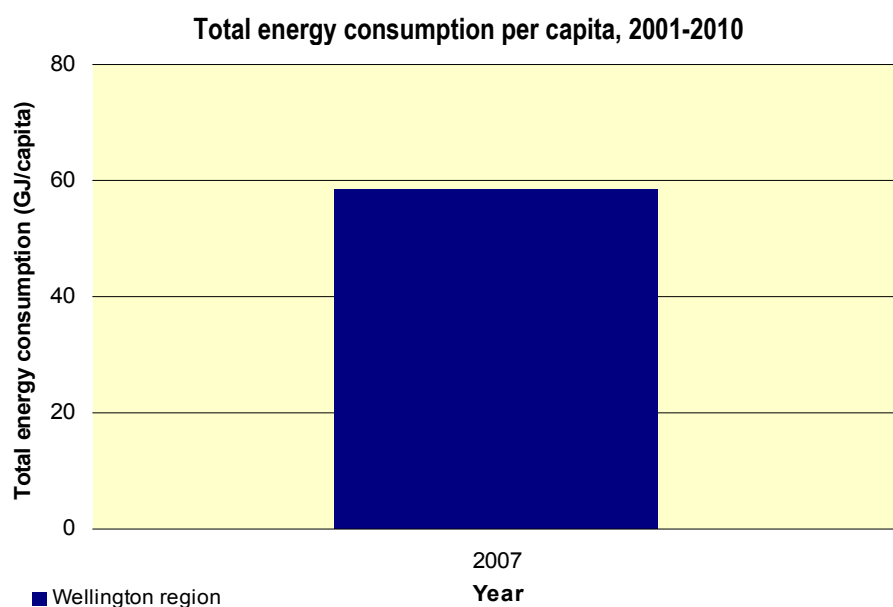
### Findings

- The Wellington region had an ecological footprint of 1.70 lha/capita in 2004. This is below the New Zealand average of 1.97 lha/capital.

## 15. Total energy consumption per capita

**?** No trend data is currently available

The intensive use of energy, especially energy obtained from fossil fuels, is also the primary cause of a number of environmental, social, and economic concerns which negatively affect our general well-being. Current energy production and consumption patterns have been linked to global climate change, local health effects, and regional impacts such as air and water pollution, damage to marine and other wildlife, land-use conflicts, security concerns, resource depletion, and soil contamination.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council

### Findings

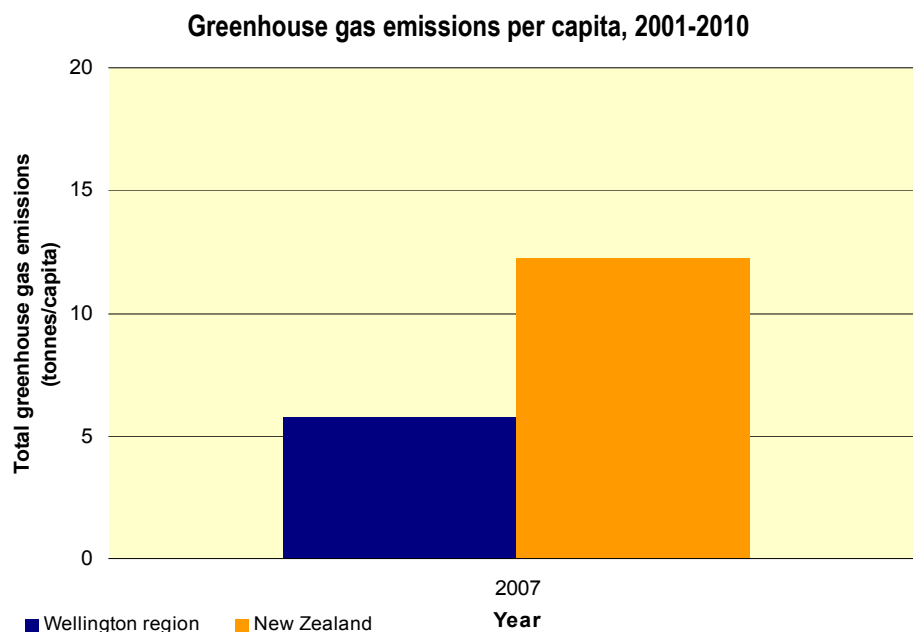
- In 2007, fuel consumption (from liquid, solid and gaseous fossil fuels) in the Wellington region was 58.4 GJ/capita.

## 16. Greenhouse gas emissions per capita



**No trend data is currently available**

This indicator gives a measure of contributions to climate change and is a proxy for resource depletion. Climate change is now widely acknowledged as the most serious environmental challenge of the century and perhaps the most serious economic and social challenge. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions would indicate improvements in well-being across a number of areas.



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council

### Findings

- In 2007, greenhouse gas emissions in the Wellington region were 5.75 tonnes/capita. This is below the New Zealand average of 12.23 tonnes/capita.
- The region's largest emissions came from the energy sector (61.9%), followed by agricultural emissions (30.9%).

## Appendix 5: Social well-being indicators

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### Healthy community indicators

Healthy community indicators have been selected to measure progress towards the healthy community outcome definition goals for the region. Focus has been given to healthy behaviours influenced by our lifestyle choices and having access to health care services.

In total 11 indicators are included in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework that form part of the healthy community outcome area. Each indicator is assigned a symbol to represent how the data trend relates to well-being progress (refer to the symbol key in Table 1, page 14).

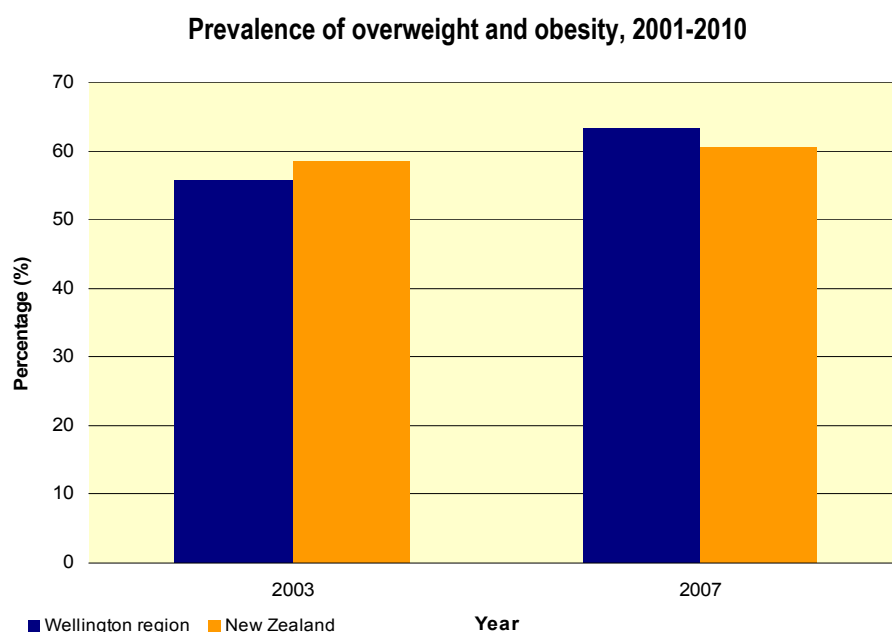
For a full list of healthy community indicators, including the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources refer to Appendix 2, Table 3.

## 1. Prevalence of overweight and obesity



### The prevalence of overweight or obese adults in the Wellington region increased between 2003 and 2007

The World Health Organisation has declared that obesity is a disease of pandemic significance, which threatens the developing world as well as developed countries. Obesity is associated with a long list of adult health conditions, including heart disease, high blood pressure and strokes, type 2 diabetes, various types of cancer, and psychological and social problems.



Source: Ministry of Health New Zealand Health Survey<sup>21</sup>

## Findings

- In 2007, 63.2% of the Wellington region adult population were classified as overweight or obese.
- The percentage of the Wellington region adults who are overweight or obese increased from 55.8% in 2003 to 63.2% in 2007.
- An increase in the prevalence of overweight and obese adults was also observed for New Zealand adults overall, but this increase was not as large as that observed in the Wellington region.

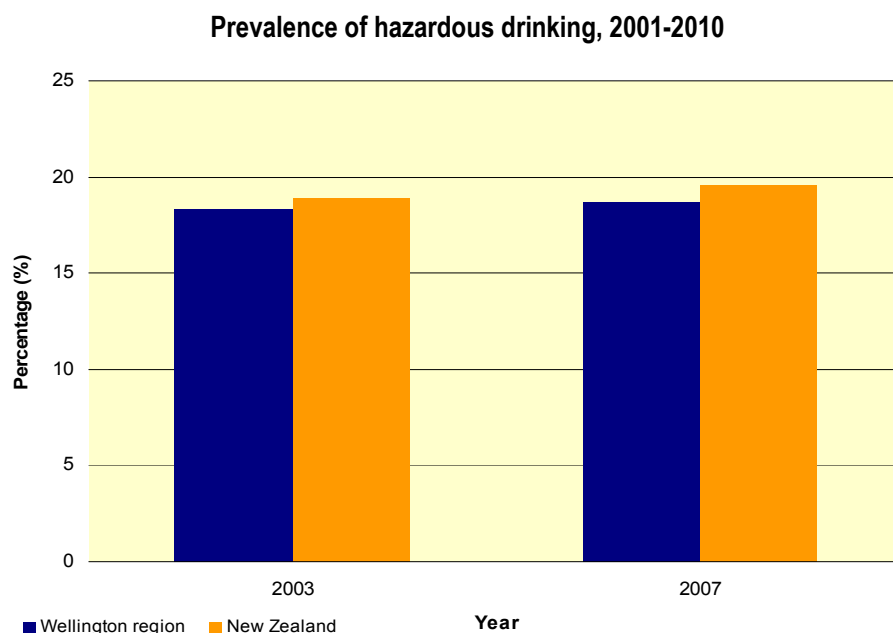
<sup>21</sup> Rates are age-standardised.

## 2. Prevalence of hazardous drinking



**The prevalence of hazardous drinking has remained relatively unchanged between 2003 and 2007**

Regular excessive consumption of alcohol places people at increased risk of chronic ill health and premature death. Episodes of heavy drinking may place the person (and others) at risk of injury or death. In the short-term, intoxication and acute alcohol-related problems include violence, risky behaviour, road trauma and injury. The significant psychosocial and economic consequences that arise from such patterns of drinking affect not only the individuals concerned but also their families and the wider community.



Source: Ministry of Health New Zealand Health Survey<sup>22</sup>

### Findings

- In 2007, 18.7% of adult drinkers in the Wellington region had a potentially hazardous drinking pattern. This is relatively unchanged from 18.3% in 2003.
- The prevalence of New Zealand adult drinkers with a potentially hazardous drinking pattern increased from 18.9% in 2003 to 19.6% in 2007.
- The prevalence of adult drinkers with a potentially hazardous drinking pattern is slightly lower in the Wellington region than New Zealand overall.

<sup>22</sup> Rates are age-standardised.

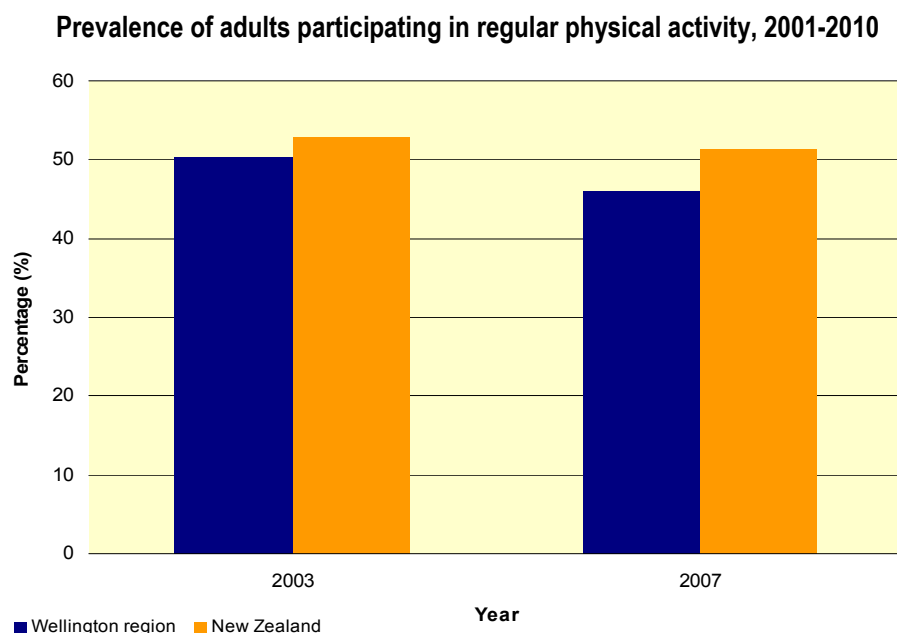


### 3. Prevalence of adults participating in regular physical activity



#### The prevalence of adults participating in regular physical activity decreased between 2003 and 2007

There is a strong interest in the health related benefits of exercise. Participation in physical activity is a source of enjoyment and has positive benefits for people's physical and mental health. Adequate levels of physical activity to derive health benefits may also be indicative of striking a balance between work and life. Participation in sporting activities is also related to interactions with the wider community. It can build social cohesion and connectedness, thereby reducing isolation, a recognised social determinant to health.



Source: Ministry of Health New Zealand Health Survey<sup>23</sup>

#### Findings

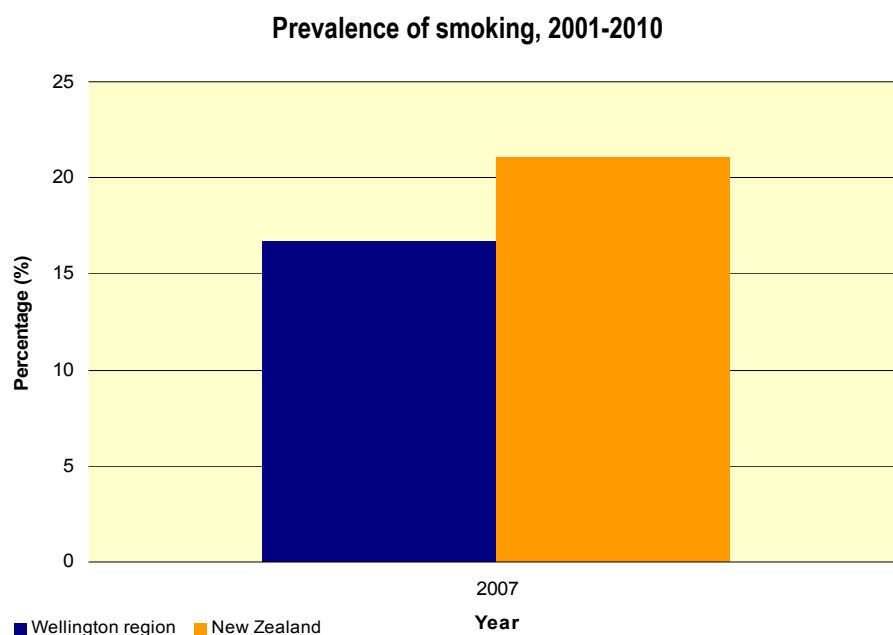
- In 2007, 46.1% of the Wellington region adult population participated in regular physical activity, a decrease from 50.3% in 2003.
- The percentage of New Zealand adults participating in regular physical activity is higher than Wellington region adults in both 2003 and 2007, and has remained relatively unchanged over this time.

<sup>23</sup> Rates are age-standardised.

#### 4. Prevalence of smoking

**?** No trend data is currently available

Tobacco smoking is a well-recognised risk factor for many cancers and for respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Smoking is a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality in New Zealand and is also linked to socio-economic and educational disadvantages.



Source: Ministry of Health New Zealand Health Survey<sup>24</sup>

#### Findings

- In 2007, 16.7% of the Wellington region population were current smokers, compared to 21.1% for the New Zealand population overall.

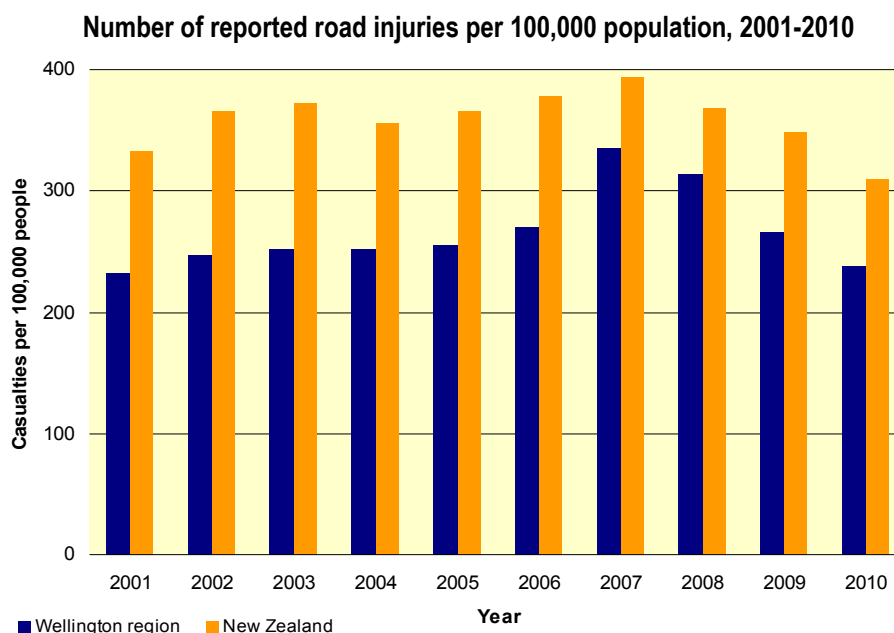
<sup>24</sup> Rates are age-standardised.

## 5. Number of reported road injuries per 100,000 population



**The number of reported road injuries per 100,000 people has changed over the 2001 to 2010 period, but the rate in 2010 is at a similar level to that in 2001**

The number of deaths and injuries on our roads is a direct reflection of road safety and security. This includes driver behaviour as well as road maintenance. Motor vehicle crashes are a major cause of premature death, especially among younger age groups. Deaths, injuries and disability resulting from motor vehicle crashes inflict considerable pain and suffering on individuals, families and communities, as well as impacts on other road users, emergency service providers, health workers and others.



Source: New Zealand Transport Agency Crash Analysis System

### Findings

- 1,152 people were killed or injured on the Wellington region roads in 2010; a rate of 238 per 100,000 people.
- From 2001 to 2007 the number of reported road injuries in the Wellington region per 100,000 people increased. Since 2007 the number of reported road injuries per 100,000 people has decreased and was at a similar level in 2010 as it was in 2001.
- The number of reported road injuries per 100,000 people in New Zealand has consistently been higher than in the Wellington region, but a similar trend over the 2001 to 2010 period was observed.

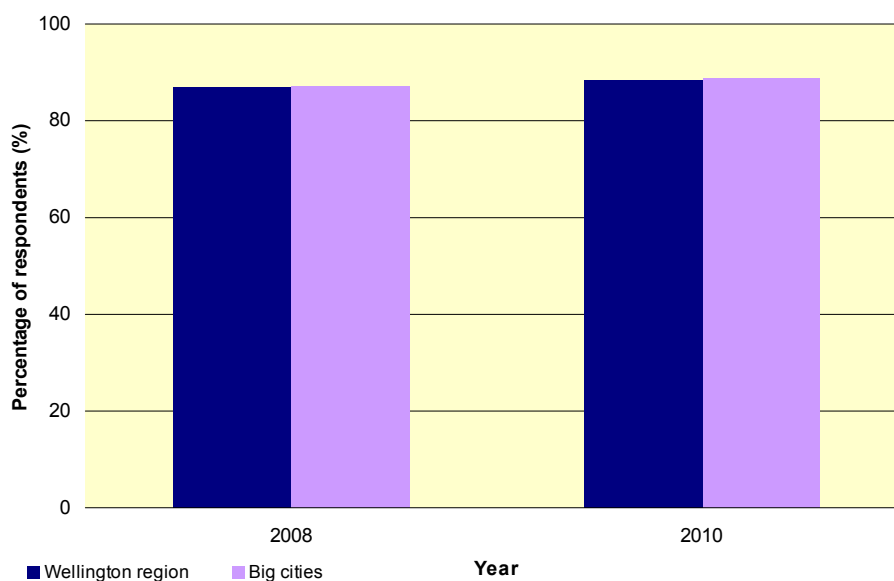
## 6. Residents perception of their health



### Residents' perception of their health remained unchanged from 2008 to 2010

Self-reported health has been found to be a powerful predictor of future health problems, health care use and mortality, independent of other medical, behavioural or psychosocial factors.

Percentage of residents rating their health as good, very good or excellent, 2001-2010



Source: Quality of Life Survey

## Findings

- In 2010, 88.3% of respondents from the Wellington region rated their health as good, very good or excellent. This is not significantly different to the 86.8% in 2008.
- Respondents in the Wellington region rating their health as good, very good or excellent is similar to that of the respondents from the big cities participating in the survey in both 2008 and 2010.
- The percentage of respondents from the big cities rating their health as good, very good or excellent, has increased slightly from 87.1% in 2008 to 88.6% in 2010.

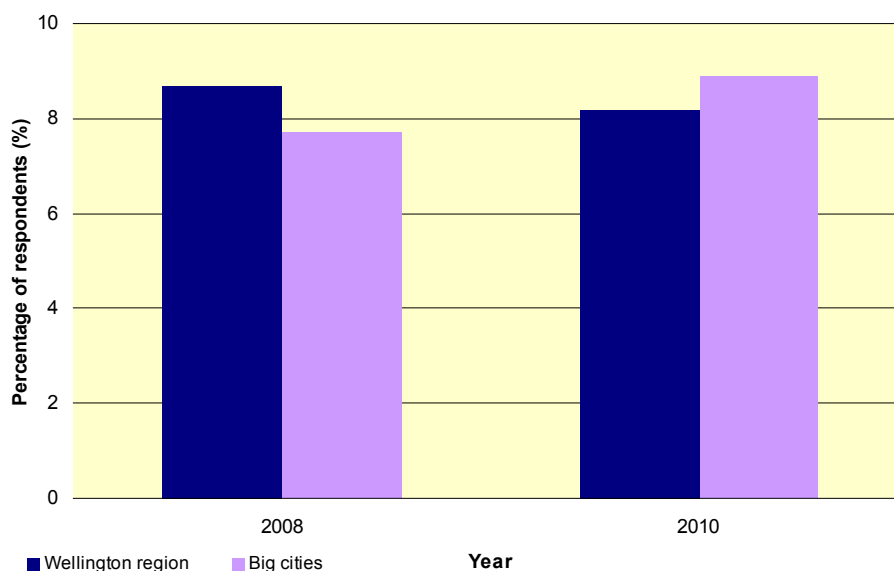
## 7. Residents regularly experiencing stress



**Residents' regularly experiencing stress remained unchanged from 2008 to 2010**

Stress is both an outcome of other health determinants and a key influence on mental and physical health in its own right. Research has identified several biological mechanisms by which stress has an impact on health, including several chronic illnesses. Good mental health is fundamental to the well-being of individuals, their families and the population as a whole.

**Percentage of residents indicating that they have experienced stress in the last 12 months most of the time or always, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

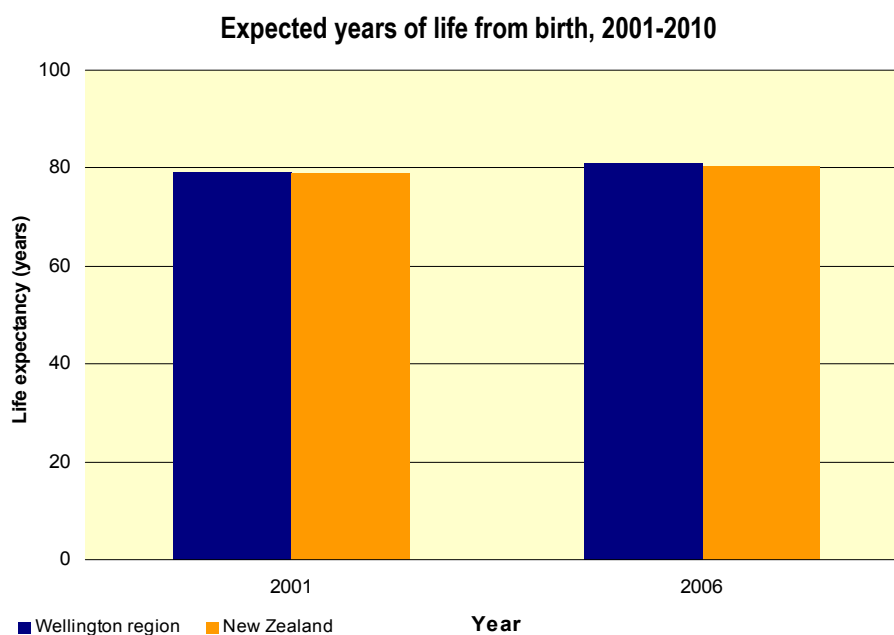
- In 2010, 8.2% of Wellington region respondents indicated that they had regularly experienced stress in the last 12 months; this has not changed significantly from 8.7% in 2008.
- The percentage of Wellington region respondents regularly experiencing stress was higher than the New Zealand percentage in 2008 and lower in 2010, but none of these differences are significant.

## 8. Expected years of life from birth



**Between 2001 and 2006, life expectancy at birth increased**

Life expectancy at birth is a key indicator of the survival experience of the population. Improvements in life expectancy reflect changes in social and economic conditions, lifestyle changes, medical advances and better access to health services.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

### Findings

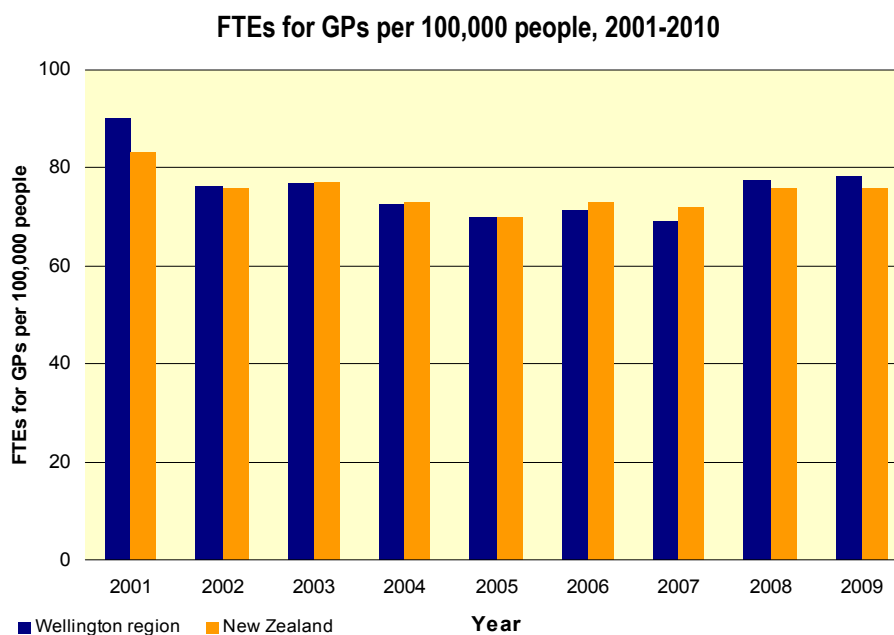
- In 2006, the average life expectancy at birth in the Wellington region was 81 years compared with 80.3 years for New Zealand.
- Average life expectancy at birth increased in the Wellington region from 79.3 years in 2001 to 81 years in 2006.
- Average life expectancy at birth for New Zealand also increased from 2001 to 2006 (79 years to 80.3 years)

## 9. FTEs for GPs per 100,000 people



**The rate of GPs per 100,000 people has increased over the last few years but remains lower than that observed in 2001**

GPs are part of the front line of primary health care provision. Accessibility to a GP is important in both treatment and prevention of poor health and in reducing the rate of hospitalisations.



Source: Medical Council of New Zealand Workforce Survey

### Findings

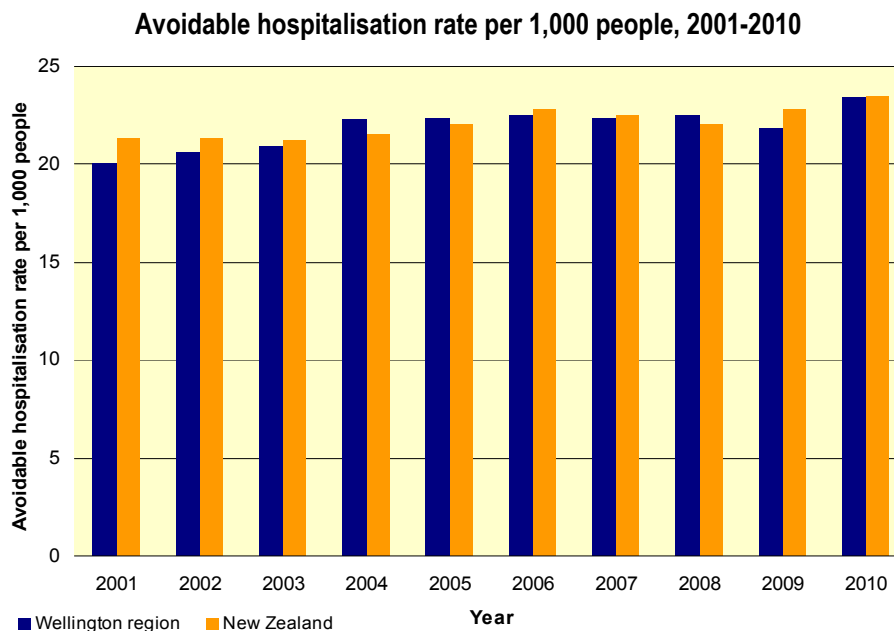
- In 2009, there were 375 full-time equivalent (FTE) GPs in the Wellington region, a rate of 78.4 per 100,000 people.
- Over the last few years the number of GPs in the Wellington region per 100,000 people has increased but remains below the high rate of 90.1 observed in 2001.
- The number of FTEs for GPs per 100,000 people in the Wellington region compared to New Zealand has been similar over the study period.

## 10. Avoidable hospital admissions rate per 1,000 people



**The avoidable hospitalisation rate has increased compared with 2001**

Every year people are admitted to hospital with conditions that could have been treated in a community setting. Avoidable hospital admissions are a proxy for people's access to, and the effectiveness of, community health care services. Avoidable hospital admission rates are affected by social conditions such as housing quality and income, personal variables such as age and ethnicity, and geographic factors such as location and access to affordable health care in the community. Avoidable admissions are also affected by the quality of community care and the links and communication between GPs and hospitals.



Source: Ministry of Health<sup>25, 26</sup>

### Findings

- The avoidable hospitalisation rate in the Wellington region was 23.4 per 1,000 people in 2010, similar to the New Zealand rate of 23.5 per 1,000 people.
- The avoidable hospitalisation rate in the Wellington region and in New Zealand overall has varied over the 2001 to 2010 study period, but in 2010 was at its highest rate over this time.

<sup>25</sup> The data provided on avoidable hospitalisations will be an undercount as the programme the Ministry of Health used to calculate rates did not include avoidable hospital admissions for conditions which are exclusively "population preventable" including HIV/AIDS, oral and lung cancers, nutrition, and alcohol related diseases. This will be updated in the near future.

<sup>26</sup> Rates are age-standardised.

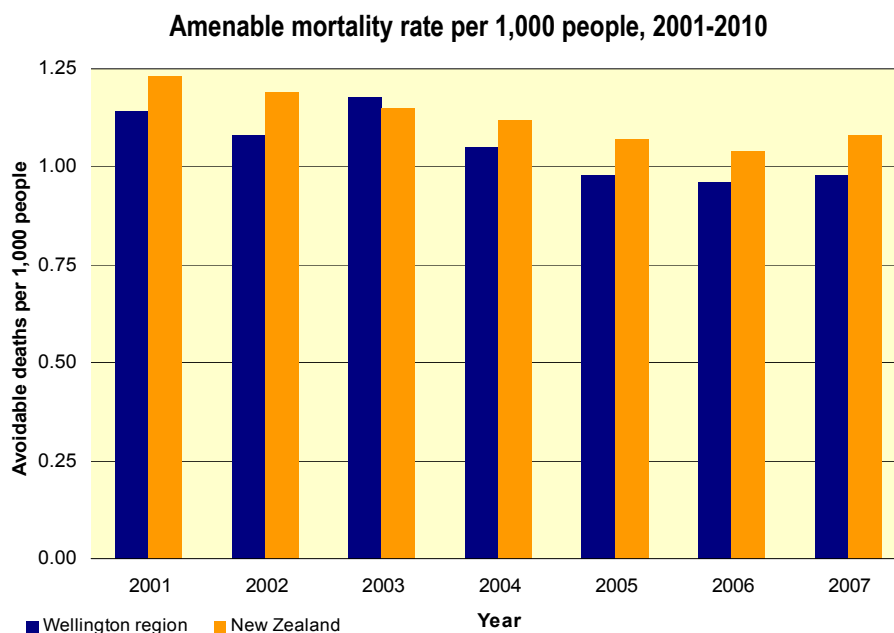


## 11. Amenable mortality rate per 1,000 people



**The amenable mortality rate in the Wellington region has decreased signifying an increase in well-being between 2001 and 2007**

Amenable mortality (deaths potentially avoidable through health care) is a proxy measure of the effectiveness of the health system. Amenable mortality rates are affected by social conditions and personal variables.



Source: Ministry of Health<sup>27</sup>

### Findings

- In 2007, the Wellington region had an amenable mortality rate of 0.98 per 1,000 people. This is lower than the New Zealand rate of 1.08 per 1,000 people.
- The amenable mortality rate has decreased from 2001 to 2007 in the Wellington region (other than a spike in 2003) and in New Zealand overall.

<sup>27</sup> Rates are age-standardised.

## Connected community indicators

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Connected community indicators have been selected to measure progress towards the connected community outcome definition goals for the region. Focus has been given to our transport options and our connections through the internet.

In total 10 indicators are included in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework that form part of the connected community outcome area. Each indicator is assigned a symbol to represent how the data trend relates to well-being progress (refer to the symbol key in Table 1, page 14).

For a full list of connected community indicators, including the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources refer to Appendix 2, Table 3.

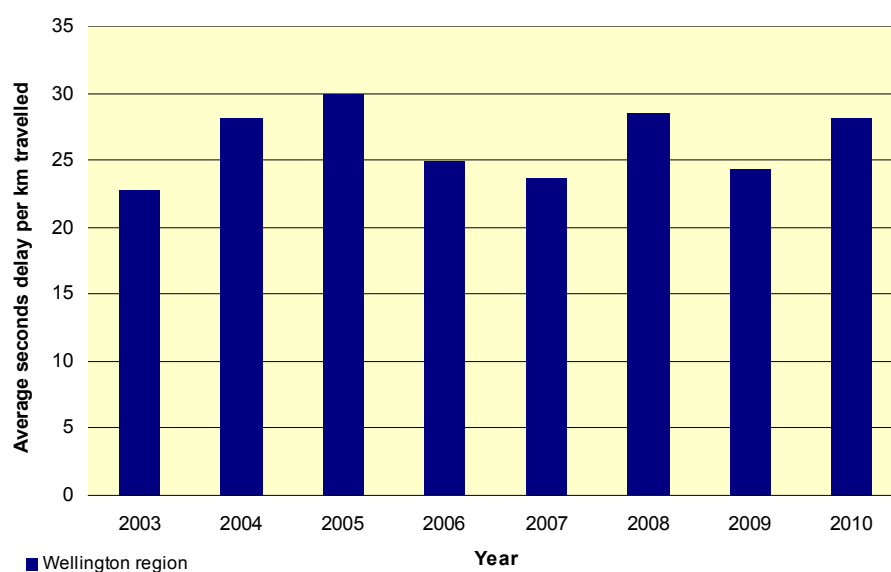
## 1. Peak AM/PM congestion rates



**Peak AM/PM congestion rates have fluctuated over the 2003 to 2010 period, but are higher in 2010 than 2003**

Ease of movement along Wellington's strategic road network is central to the efficient movement of people and goods, and to generating social and economic outcomes. The average amount of time taken to travel around the region is an indicator of the reliability of using the road network.

**Peak AM/PM congestion rates, 2001-2010**



Source: New Zealand Transport Authority

### Findings

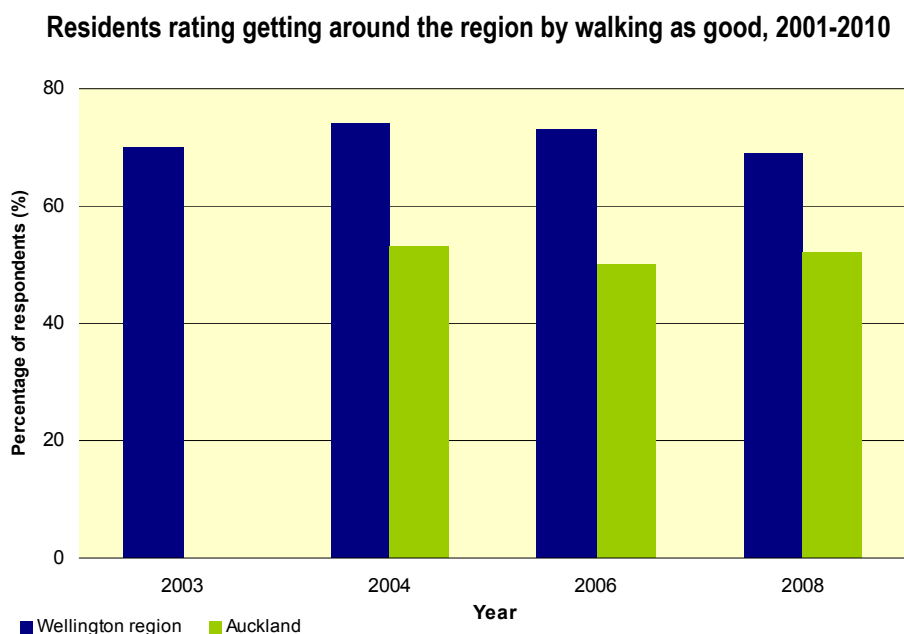
- In 2010, the peak AM/PM congestion rate of selected Wellington region roads was 28.2 seconds delay per km travelled.
- Congestion rates have fluctuated over the study period but were higher in 2010 than 2003.

## 2. Ease of walking around the region



**There has been little change in residents' perceptions of the ease of walking around the region since 2003**

An increase in cycling and walking can contribute to important transport outcomes such as reducing congestion and associated air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle costs. There are also additional health benefits to increasing walking and cycling. Perceptions of the ease of various forms of transport for getting around the region can impact on people's travel opportunities and choices.



Source: GWRC and ARC Transport Perceptions Survey

### Findings

- In 2008, 69% of respondents rated getting around the Wellington region by walking as 'good'.
- Respondents in the Wellington region are more likely to think walking around the region is 'good' compared to Auckland region residents.
- There has been little change in residents' perceptions of walking around the region in both Wellington and Auckland over the study period.

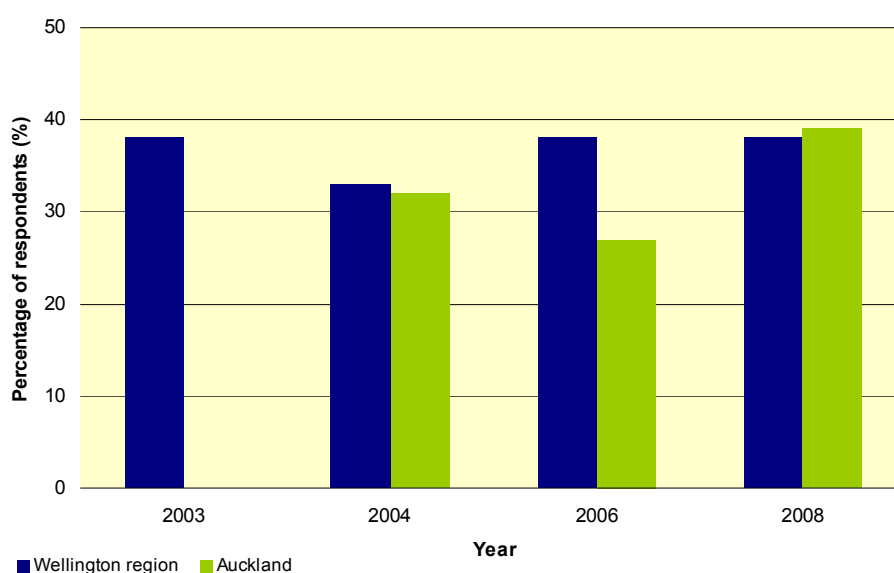
### 3. Ease of cycling around the region



**There has been little change in residents' perceptions of the ease of cycling around the region since 2003**

An increase in cycling and walking can contribute to important transport outcomes such as reducing congestion and associated air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle costs. There are also additional health benefits to increasing walking and cycling. Perceptions of the ease of various forms of transport for getting around the region can impact on people's travel opportunities and choices.

**Residents rating getting around the region by cycling as good, 2001-2010**



Source: GWRC and ARC Transport Perceptions Survey

#### Findings

- In 2008, 38% of respondents rated getting around the Wellington region by cycling as 'good'.
- There has been little change in residents' perceptions of cycling around the Wellington region over the study period.
- Other than a marked difference in 2006, respondents in the Wellington region are just as likely as respondents in the Auckland region to think cycling around the region is 'good'.

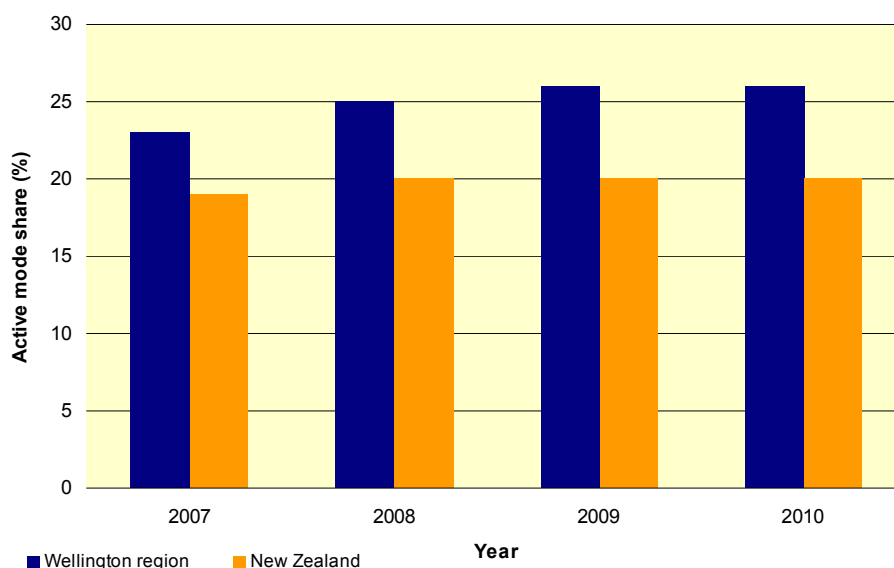
#### 4. Active mode share of total household travel



**The use of active modes for travel around the region has increased slightly from 2007 to 2010**

Increasing active travel can contribute to important transport outcomes such as reducing congestion and associated air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle costs. It also has the additional benefit of increasing physical activity which improves physical and mental well-being, encourages social interaction and lowers the risk of a number of diseases.

**Active mode share of total household travel by residents in main urban areas, 2001-2010**



Source: Ministry of Transport TMIF indicator TP005

#### Findings

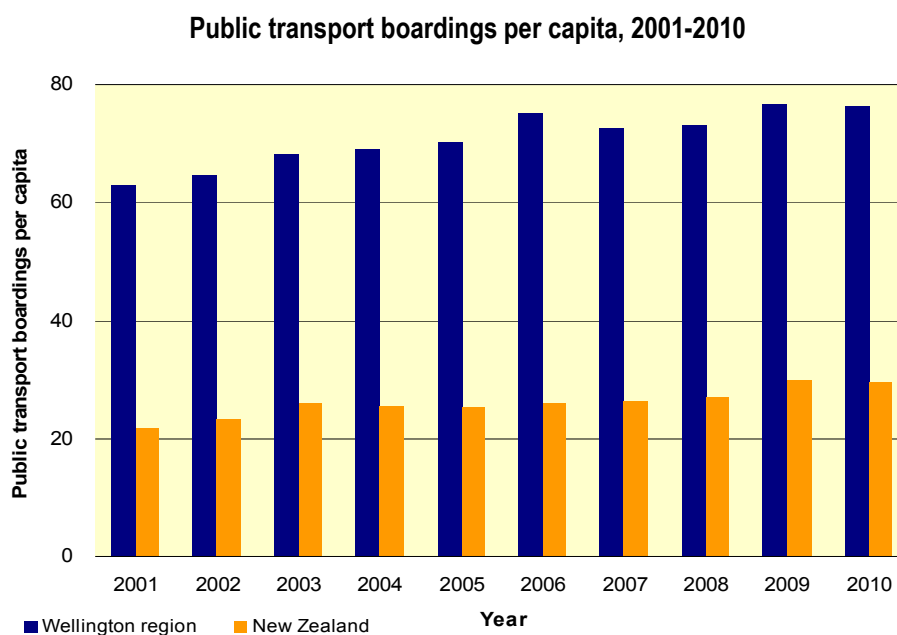
- In 2010, active travel made up 26% of total travel by residents of main urban areas in the Wellington region. This has increased slightly from 23% in 2007.
- Higher proportions of trips are made by active modes in the Wellington region than in New Zealand overall.

## 5. Public transport boardings per capita



### Public transport boardings per capita have increased from 2001 to 2010

Public transport is seen as a key sustainability indicator as it has wide-ranging benefits on the environment, employment options and access to services. It is generally a more energy-efficient means of transport than light passenger vehicles.



Source: Ministry of Transport TMIF indicator TV020

## Findings

- In 2010, there were 76.4 public transport boardings per capita in the Wellington region; this has steadily increased from 62.9 in 2001.
- Public transport boardings per capita across New Zealand have also increased over this time but these are much lower than those observed in the Wellington region.

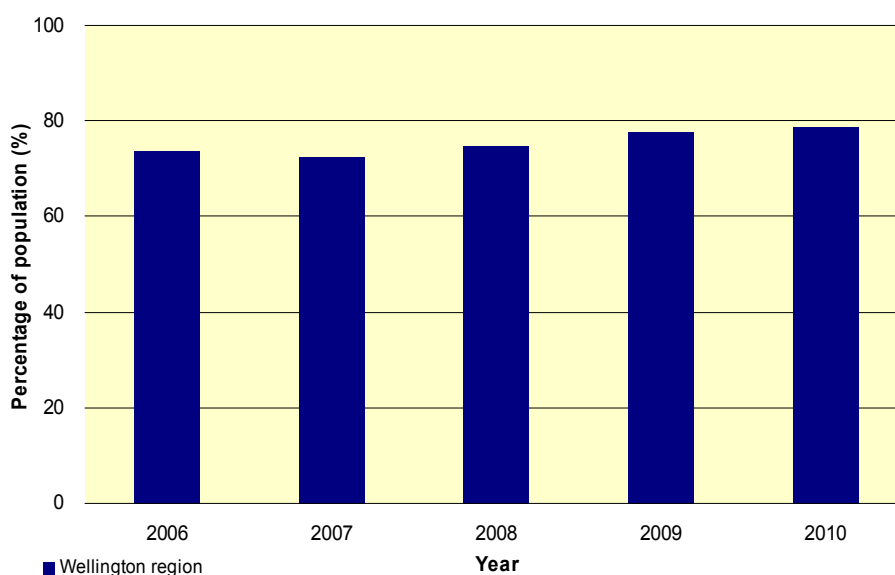
## 6. Percentage of people living within 400m of a public transport stop



**There has been a slight increase in the percentage of people living within 400m of a public transport stop between 2006 and 2010**

This indicator gives a measure of people's access to public transport. This facilitates their ability to access health services and programs, education and employment. It also reduces dependence on private vehicles which has positive benefits for the environment. Limited access to public transport can result in social isolation so it is especially important for the elderly to have access.

**Percentage of people living within 400m of a public transport stop, 2001-2010**



Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council

### Findings

- In 2010, 78.6% of people within the Wellington region lived within 400m of a public transport stop.
- There has been a slight increase in the percentage of the Wellington region population living within 400m of a public transport stop between 2006 and 2010.

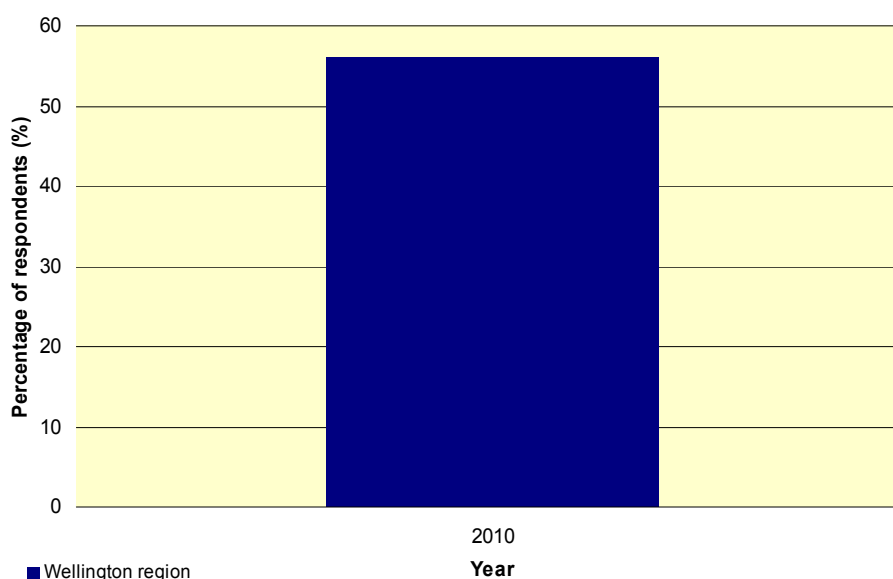


## 7. Ease of making a journey across the region by public transport

**? No trend data is currently available**

Public transport facilitates people's ability to access health services and programs, education and employment. Perceptions of the ease of various forms of transport for getting around the region can impact on people's travel opportunities and choices.

**Percentage of residents that find it somewhat easy, very easy or extremely easy to make journeys across the Wellington region by public transport, 2001-2010**



Source: GWRC Annual Public Transport Satisfaction Monitor<sup>28</sup>

### Findings

- In 2010, 56% of respondents rated getting around the Wellington region by public transport as somewhat easy, very easy or extremely easy.

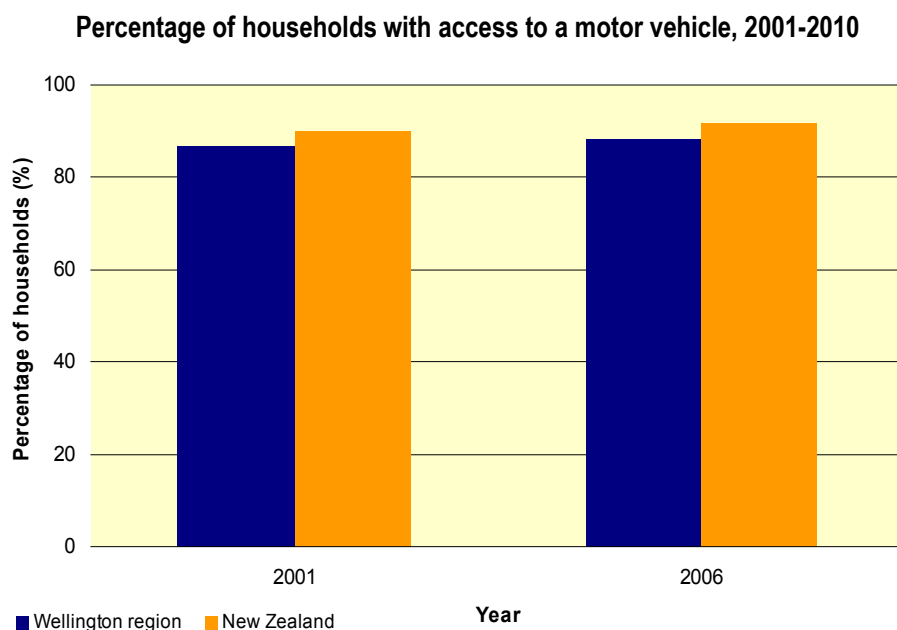
<sup>28</sup> In 2010 the wording of the question changed from very easy or easy to somewhat easy, very easy or extremely easy so it is not possible to compare results for 2010 with previous results.

## 8. Percentage of households with access to a motor vehicle



**Between 2001 and 2006 the percentage of households with access to a motor vehicle increased**

Access to both public and private transportation is essential for people to contribute to their community, and access health services and programs, education and employment. It also impacts on people's travel opportunities and choices. Limitations in regard to transport are related to social isolation and also have a relationship with sedentary lifestyles.



Source: Statistics New Zealand Census

### Findings

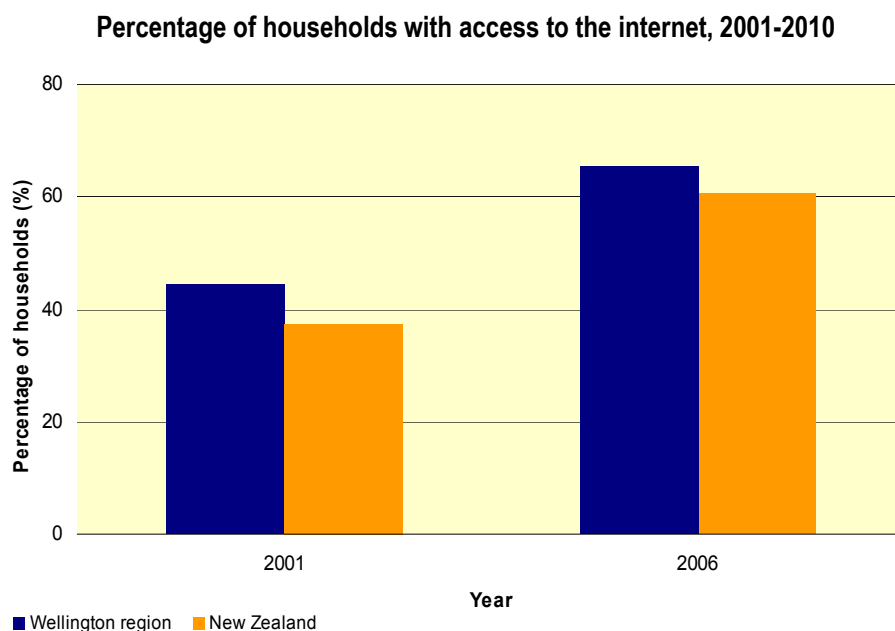
- In 2006, 88.3% of households in the Wellington region had access to a motor vehicle, an increase from 86.9% in 2001.
- The percentage of households with access to a motor vehicle has also increased for New Zealand over this time (89.9% in 2001 to 91.9% in 2006).
- The percentage of households with access to a motor vehicle is higher for New Zealand than for the Wellington region.

## 9. Percentage of households with access to the internet



### The percentage of households with access to the internet increased from 2001 to 2006

Access to communication via the internet helps to maintain social connectedness. It enables social contact with friends and family in the absence of frequent face-to-face contact. The internet is an important means of accessing a wide range of information and services. People who are unable to access information technologies, or who are without the skills to use them, run the risk of being excluded from possible social, educational, cultural and economic benefits. This may have adverse effects on their educational outcomes, employment prospects and other aspects of well-being.



Source: Statistics New Zealand Census

### Findings

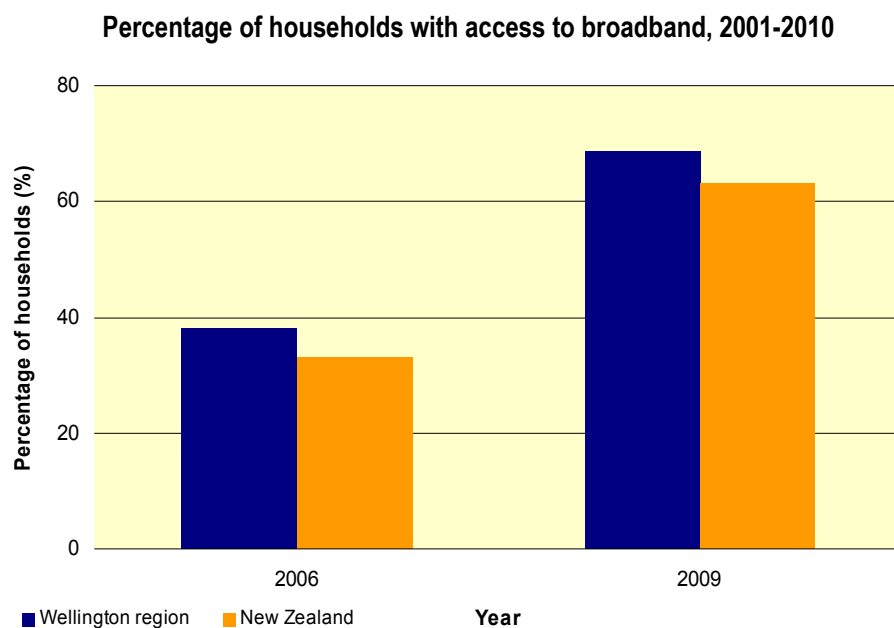
- In 2006, 65.5% of households in the Wellington region had access to the internet, a large increase from 44.2% in 2001.
- The percentage of households with access to the internet has also increased for New Zealand over this time (37.4% in 2001 to 60.5% in 2006).
- The percentage of households with access to the internet is higher in the Wellington region than for New Zealand.

## 10. Percentage of households with access to broadband



**Between 2006 and 2009 the percentage of households with broadband access increased**

Broadband is a high-speed connection to the internet and enables people, business and government fast access to ICT services and information. This can enhance people's social and educational outcomes, employment prospects and other aspects of well-being; as well as contributing to the production and sale of goods and services in the economy.



Source: Statistics New Zealand ICT Survey

### Findings

- In 2009, 68.5% of households in the Wellington region had broadband, an increase from 38.1% in 2006.
- The percentage of households with broadband access also increased for New Zealand over this time (33.0% in 2006 to 63.1% in 2009).
- The percentage of households with broadband access is higher in the Wellington region than for New Zealand overall.

## Sense of place indicators

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Sense of place indicators have been selected to measure progress towards the sense of place outcome definition goals for the region. Focus has been given to our sense of pride about the area and social connectedness.

In total five<sup>29</sup> indicators are included in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework that form part of the sense of place community outcome area. Each indicator is assigned a symbol to represent how the data trend relates to well-being progress (refer to the symbol key in Table 1, page 14).

For a full list of sense of place indicators, including the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources refer to Appendix 2, Table 3.

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<sup>29</sup> There are six indicators included in the WR-GPI framework that form part of the sense of place outcome area, however one of these indicators does not currently have a data source attributable to it so is not included in this report.

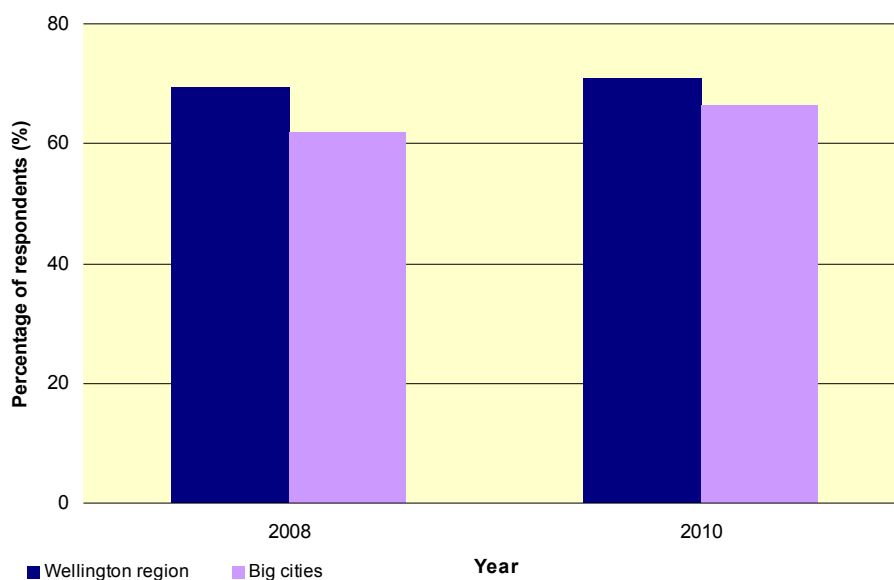
## 1. Percentage of people that feel a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels



**The percentage of resident's feeling a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels is unchanged from 2008 to 2010**

Built environments contribute to the way people feel about where they live and impact strongly on the sustainability of the natural environment. Residents who are happy with their neighbourhood are more likely to utilise local amenities and services and contribute to improving their neighbourhood.

### **Percentage of resident's agreeing or strongly agreeing that they feel a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### **Findings**

- In 2010, 71% of Wellington region residents agreed or strongly agreed that they felt a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels, this is unchanged from 2008.
- In 2008 and 2010 Wellington region residents were more likely to feel a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels compared to participating residents in the eight big cities.
- However, from 2008 to 2010 there were significant increases in the percentage of residents from the eight big cities feeling a sense of pride in the way their city looks and feels.

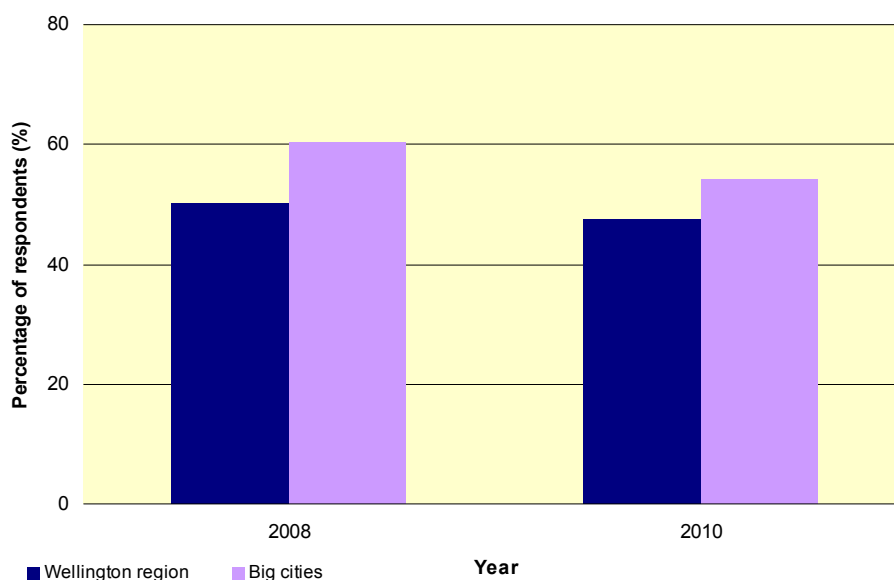
## 2. Perception that graffiti, vandalism and litter is a problem



**The percentage of resident's that thought graffiti, vandalism or litter is a problem in their local area was similar in 2008 to 2010**

Neighbourhoods in which people keep an eye out for each other, take an interest in maintaining ties and networks and have a shared pride of place are more likely to be safe and fulfilling environments. Litter, graffiti and vandalism can undermine a person's sense of well-being as it can affect how safe they feel, and can have an impact on the way people feel about where they live.

**Percentage of resident's thinking that rubbish or litter lying in the streets, graffiti or tagging, or vandalism had been a problem in their local area over the past 12 months, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

- In 2010, an average of 47.5% of Wellington region residents thought that litter, graffiti or vandalism had been a problem in their local area over the last 12 months. This is not significantly different to the 50.2% of Wellington region residents in 2008.
- However, from 2008 to 2010 there was a decrease in the percentage of residents from the eight big cities that thought that litter, graffiti or vandalism had been a problem. However, residents of the eight big cities remain more likely to think that litter, graffiti or vandalism had been a problem compared to Wellington region residents.
- In both the Wellington region and the eight big cities, residents are more likely to think that graffiti had been a problem compared to litter or vandalism.

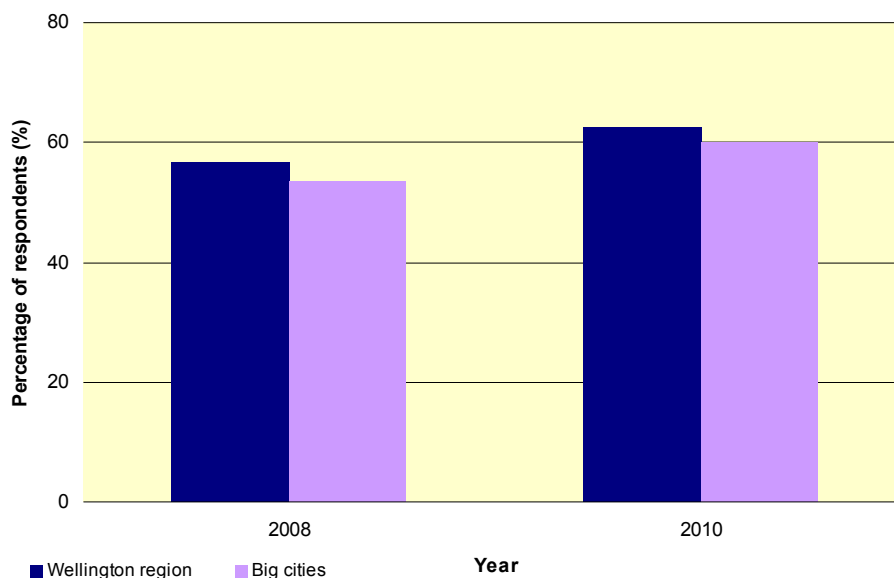
### 3. Residents' sense of community in local neighbourhood



**The percentage of resident's feeling a sense of community in their local neighbourhood has increased from 2008 to 2010**

A well-functioning and integrated society is underpinned by trust and caring at the neighbourhood community level. Neighbourhoods in which people keep an eye out for each other, take an interest in maintaining ties and networks and have a shared pride of place are more likely to be safe and fulfilling environments than neighbourhoods where there is little, or negative, interaction.

**Percentage of resident's agreeing or strongly agreeing that they feel a sense of community with others in their local neighbourhood, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

#### Findings

- In 2010, 62.7% of Wellington region residents agreed or strongly agreed that they felt a sense of community with others in their local neighbourhood, a significant increase from 56.8% in 2008.
- A similar trend is also observed for the residents of the eight big cities from 2008 to 2010, but in both years higher percentages of residents in the Wellington region, than the eight big cities, felt a sense of community with others in their local neighbourhood.

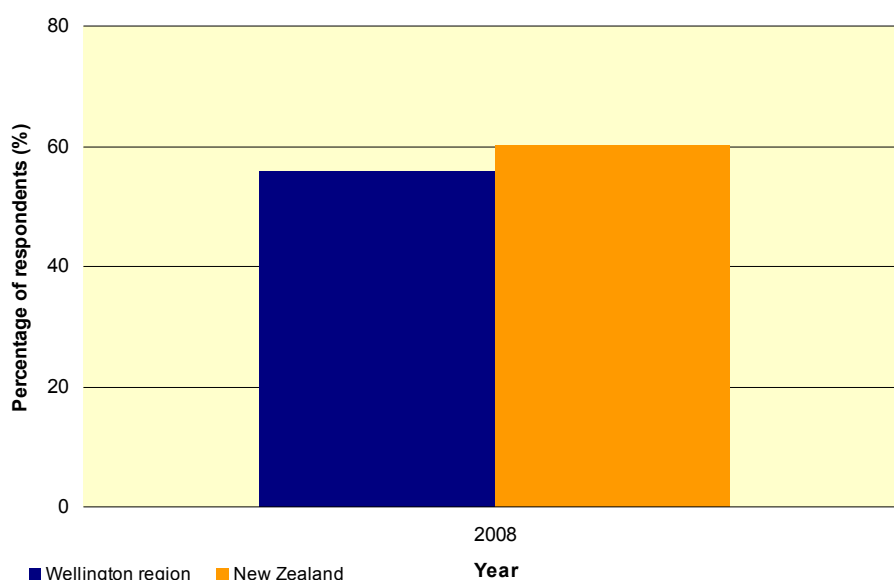


#### 4. Residents' reported contact with friends and family

**?** No trend data is currently available

Families and friends are key sources of social support and give people a sense of belonging. Staying in touch with family and friends who live elsewhere helps maintain social connectedness between households and across geographical boundaries.

**Percentage of resident's who thought the amount of contact they have with friends and family is about right, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand General Social Survey

#### Findings

- In 2008, 55.9% of Wellington region residents thought the amount of contact they have with friends and family was about right, this is lower than for New Zealand residents overall.

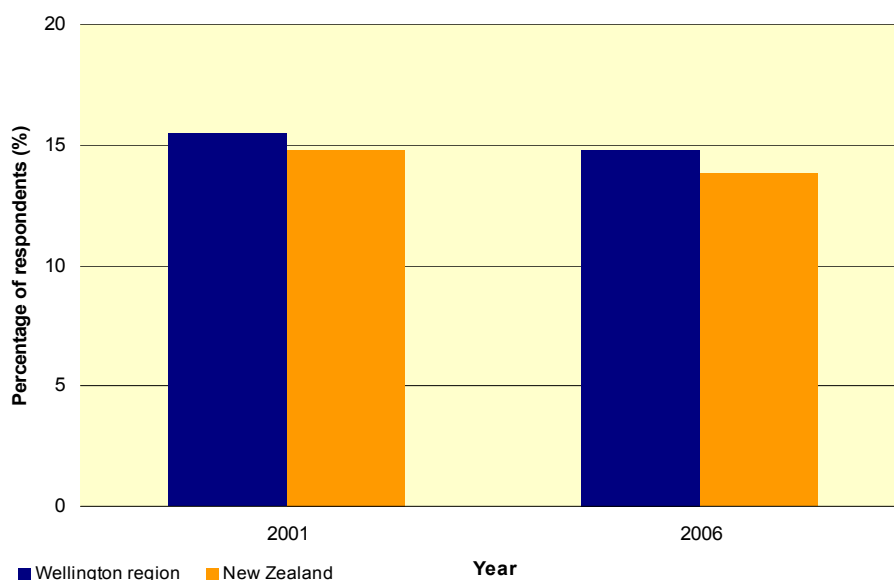
## 5. Volunteerism rates



**The percentage of adults undertaking voluntary work has decreased between 2001 and 2006**

Voluntary work underpins a wide range of groups and organisations whose activities contribute to social well-being. People volunteer for a variety of reasons which provide benefits not only to the community, but also to the volunteers themselves. The number of volunteers in the community is a proxy measure of community engagement and social connectedness. Volunteer work helps build social networks and increases social cohesion, as well as having direct economic value.

**Percentage of adults helping or undertaking voluntary work for or through an organisation, group or marae, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Census

### Findings

- In 2006, 14.8% of Wellington region adults helped or undertook unpaid voluntary work for or through an organisation, group or marae. This is slightly higher than the percentage of New Zealand adults (13.8% in 2006).
- The percentage of adults in New Zealand and in the Wellington region that undertook voluntary work decreased between 2001 and 2006.

## Quality lifestyle indicators

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Quality lifestyle indicators have been selected to measure progress towards the quality lifestyle outcome definition goals for the region. Focus has been given to aspects of resident's satisfaction, safety, access and participation in social activities, attracting visitors and affordable housing.

In total 13 indicators are included in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework that form part of the quality lifestyle community outcome area. Each indicator is assigned a symbol to represent how the data trend relates to well-being progress (refer to the symbol key in Table 1, page 14).

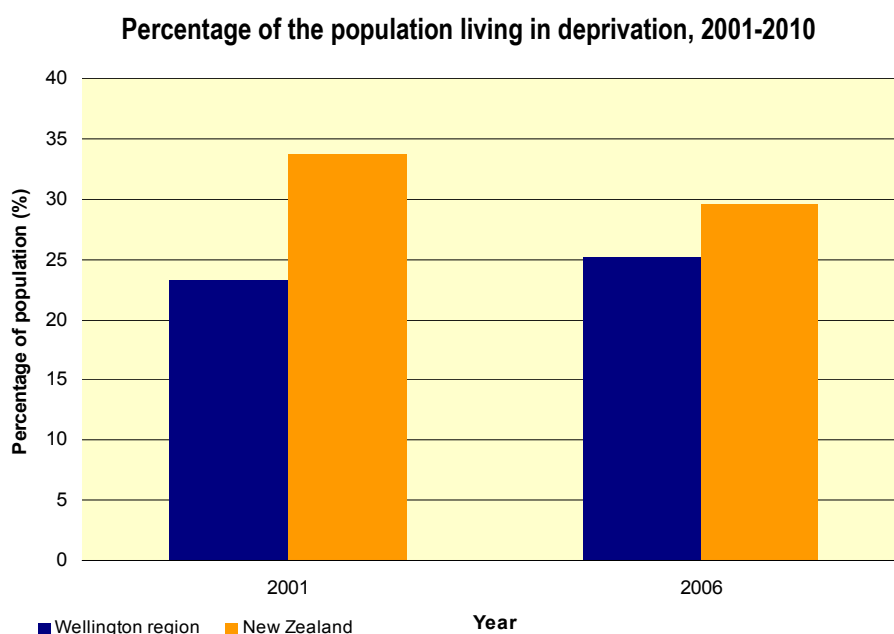
For a full list of quality lifestyle indicators, including the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources refer to Appendix 2, Table 3.

## 1. Percentage of the population living in deprivation



**The percentage of the population living in deprivation increased between 2001 and 2006**

Addressing disadvantage is a key sustainability challenge. Persons and households experiencing low incomes, low levels of education and under-employment are less likely than others to have access to affordable housing, and to have the ability to secure a good quality of life for themselves and their families, now and in the future.



Source: University of Otago: Department of Public Health

### Findings

- In 2006, 25.2% of the Wellington region population were living in deprivation (areas with decile ratings of 8, 9 or 10).
- The proportion of the population living in deprivation in the Wellington region has increased from 23.3% in 2001 to 25.2% in 2006.
- In both 2001 and 2006 the proportion of the New Zealand population living in deprivation was higher than that in the Wellington region. However, the proportion of the New Zealand population living in deprivation has decreased between 2001 and 2006 whereas it has increased in the Wellington region.

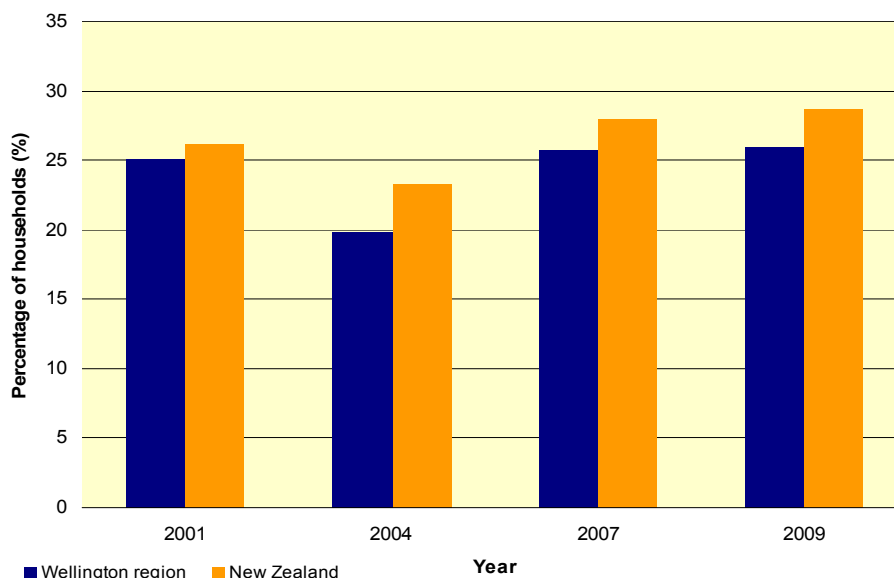
## 2. Percentage of households that spend more than 30% of their disposable income on housing



**The percentage of households that spend more than 30% of their disposable income on housing in 2009 was at a similar level as that in 2001**

Affordable housing is important for people's well-being. For lower-income households especially, high housing costs relative to income are often associated with severe financial difficulty, and can leave households with insufficient income to meet other basic needs such as food, clothing, transport, medical care and education. High outgoings-to-income ratios are not as critical for higher-income earners, as there is sufficient income left for their basic needs.

**Percentage of households that spend more than 30% of their disposable income on housing, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Household Economic Survey

### Findings

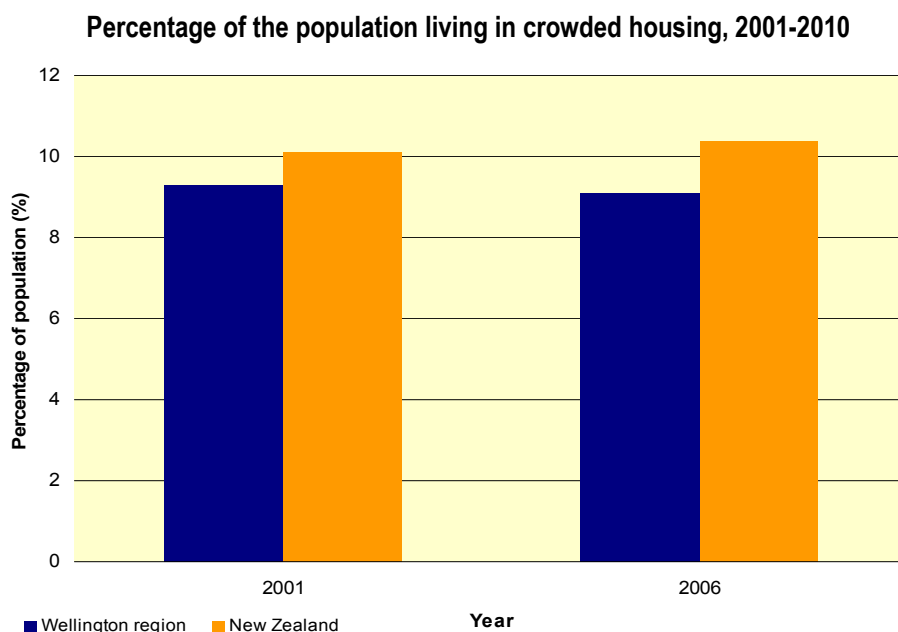
- In 2009, 25.2% of households in the Wellington region spent more than 30% of their disposable income on housing costs. This was an increase on the 2004 level but similar to that in 2001 and 2007.
- A similar trend was observed for households in New Zealand over this time, but in all years higher percentages of households in New Zealand compared to the Wellington region spend more than 30% of their disposable income on housing costs.

### 3. Percentage of the population living in crowded housing



**The percentage of the population living in crowded housing is unchanged between 2001 and 2006**

Housing space adequate to the needs and desires of a family is a core component of quality of life. National and international studies show an association between the prevalence of certain infectious diseases and crowding, between crowding and poor educational attainment, and between residential crowding and psychological distress.



Source: MSD Social Report from Statistics New Zealand

### Findings

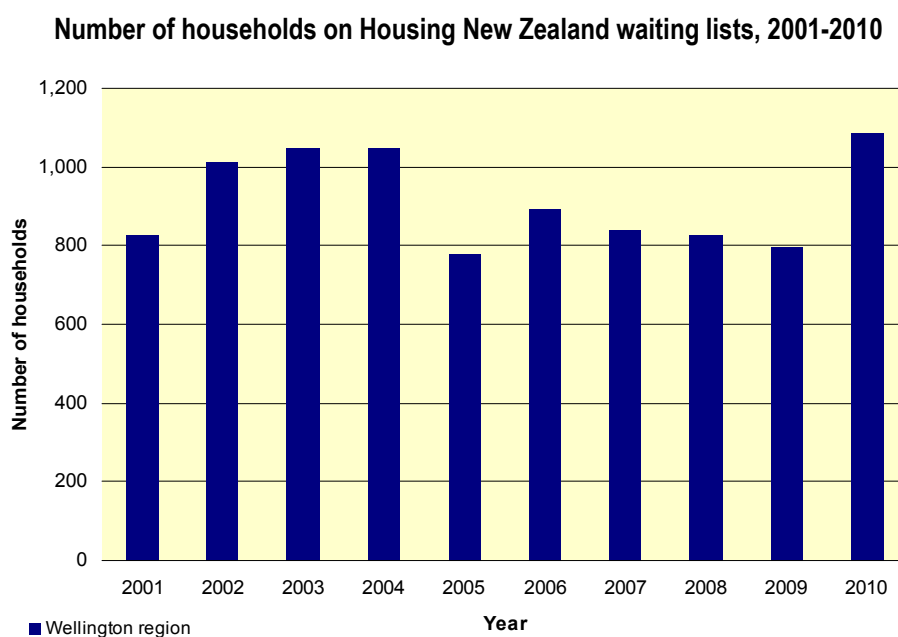
- In 2006, 9.1% of the population in the Wellington region lived in crowded housing compared to 10.4% for New Zealand overall. Similar percentages were also observed in 2001.
- In both years, higher percentages of the New Zealand population lived in crowded housing compared with the Wellington region population.

#### 4. Number of households on Housing New Zealand waiting lists



**The number of households on Housing New Zealand waiting lists is higher in 2010 than 2001**

Lack of social housing can result in parts of the population living in inadequate housing. This may lead to ill health and an unhealthy and unaffordable lifestyle, thus resulting in a lower quality of life.



Source: Housing New Zealand

#### Findings

- In 2010, there were 1,087 households in the Wellington region on Housing New Zealand waiting lists.
- The number of households on waiting lists has fluctuated over the study period, but is higher in 2010 than 2001.

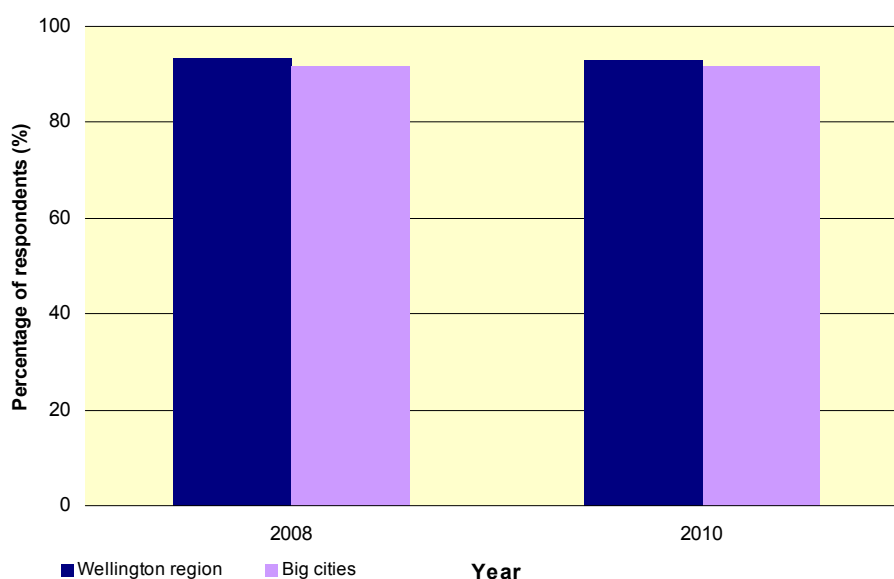
## 5. Percentage of people that are positive about their quality of life



**Between 2008 and 2010, residents rating of their quality of life remained unchanged**

Quality of life is about feeling good and being satisfied with things in general. Self-rated quality of life measures the gap between a person's hopes and expectations and their present experience.

**Percentage of resident's rating their quality of life as good or extremely good, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

- In 2010, 93% of Wellington region residents rated their quality of life as good or extremely good, similar to the 93.3% in 2008.
- In 2010, 91.8% of residents from the eight big cities rated their quality of life as good or extremely good. This was similar to the 2008 percentage and not significantly different to that observed in the Wellington region in both 2008 and 2010.



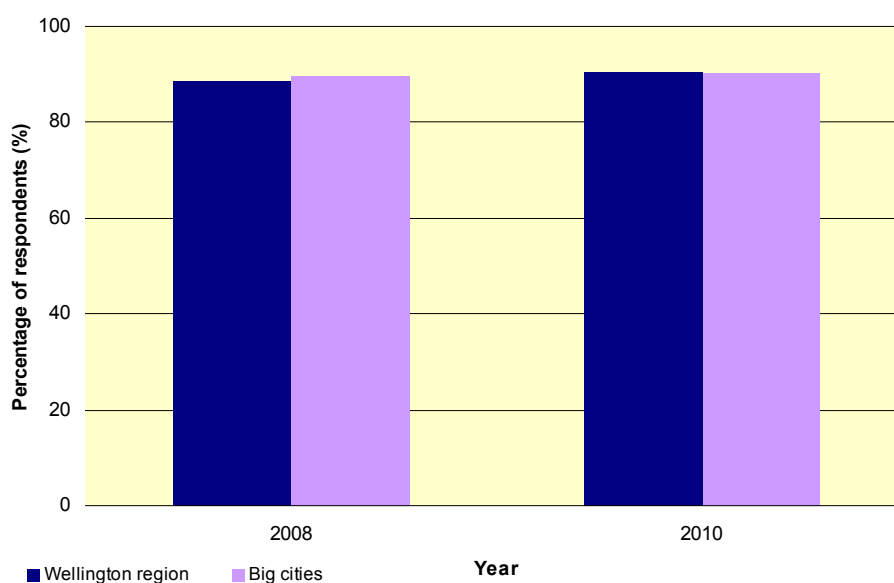
## 6. Residents rating of their happiness



**The percentage of residents indicating they were happy or very happy increased between 2008 and 2010**

Perceptions of individual happiness gives an overall measure of mental well-being and are directly related to people's overall quality of life.

**Percentage of resident's saying that, in general, they are happy or very happy, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

- In 2010, 90.6% of Wellington region residents said that, in general, they were happy or very happy, an increase from 88.7% in 2008.
- Similar percentages were also observed for New Zealand residents.

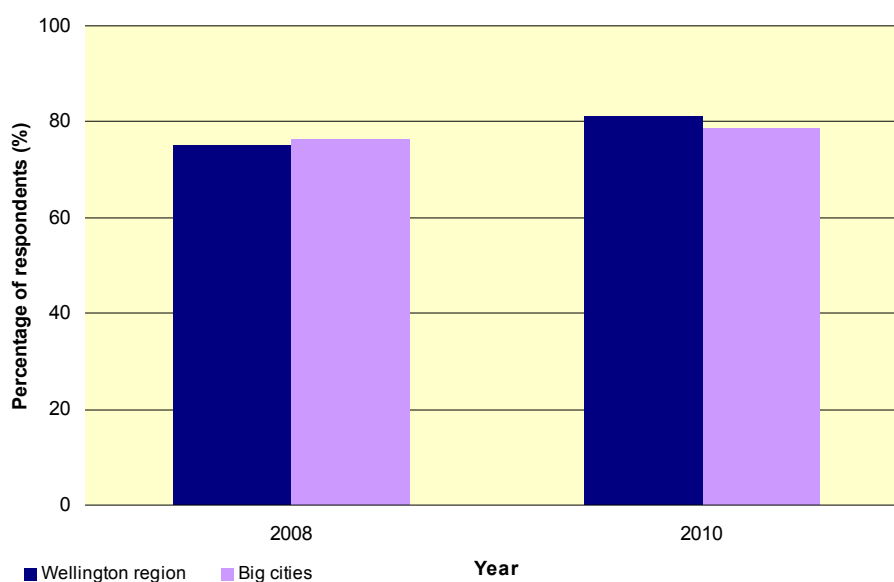
## 7. Residents satisfaction with work/life balance



### Higher percentages of employed residents were satisfied with their work-life balance between 2008 and 2010

It is important that people find a balance between paid work and other aspects of their lives. When this balance is not found, people may suffer from stress or anxiety which impacts on a person's well-being.

#### Percentage of resident's feeling satisfied or very satisfied with the balance between their work and other aspects of their life, 2001-2010



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

- In 2010, 81.2% of employed Wellington region residents were satisfied or very satisfied with their work-life balance. This was a similar increase from the level in 2008 (75%).
- Similar percentages were also observed for New Zealand residents.

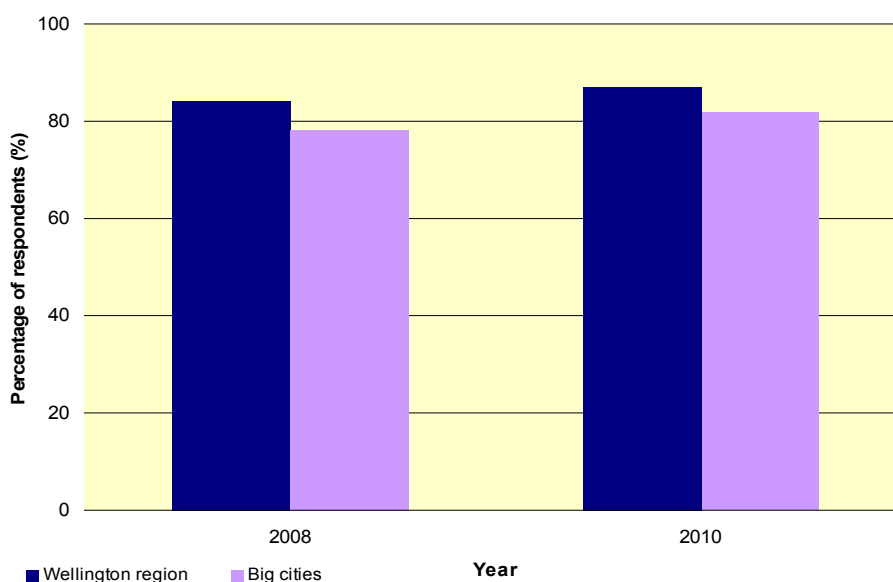
## 8. Residents sense of safety



### Residents' sense of safety increased between 2008 and 2010

Perceptions of safety are as important as actual instances of crime. If people feel unsafe in their home and local area they may be less likely to talk to their neighbours, to trust others living in the area, to use public transport, to walk in the area, use public amenities and generally participate in their communities. The built environment and the way neighbourhoods are designed and maintained also impact greatly on perceptions of safety.

The average percentage of resident's feeling fairly safe or very safe,<sup>30</sup> 2001-2010



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

- In 2010, an average of 86.9% of Wellington region residents felt fairly safe or very safe, an increase from 84.1% in 2008.
- The average percentage of New Zealand residents feeling fairly safe or very safe also increased from 2008 to 2010 (78.2% to 81.7%). However, in both 2008 and 2010 lower percentages of New Zealand residents compared to Wellington region residents, felt fairly safe or very safe.

<sup>30</sup> This is an average of residents feeling safe or very safe: in their home during the day, in their home after dark, walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, in their city centre during the day and in their city centre after dark.

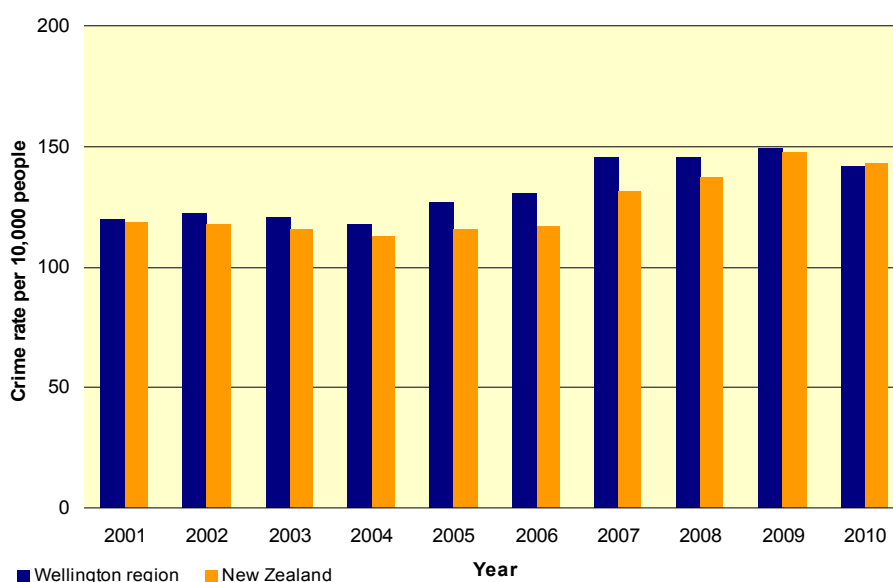
## 9. Recorded offences for crimes against the person - rate per 10,000 people



**The rate of recorded offences for crimes against the person is higher in 2010 than 2001**

Crime, and fear of crime, impacts negatively on the community in terms of personal security, the attractiveness of an area for recreation and on general amenity. The incidence of crime is both a cause and symptom of low quality of life, and is associated with poverty, exclusion and the need for support services.

**Recorded offences for crimes against the person per 10,000 people, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Recorded Crime Offences

### Findings

- In 2010, recorded offences against the person in the Wellington region were 142 per 10,000 people.
- Recorded offence rates in the Wellington region remained relatively unchanged between 2001 and 2004, and then gradually increased from 2005 to 2007 before again becoming relatively static.
- National rates of recorded offences against the person were also higher in 2010 than in 2001.
- Recorded offences against the person have generally been slightly higher in the Wellington region than in New Zealand overall.

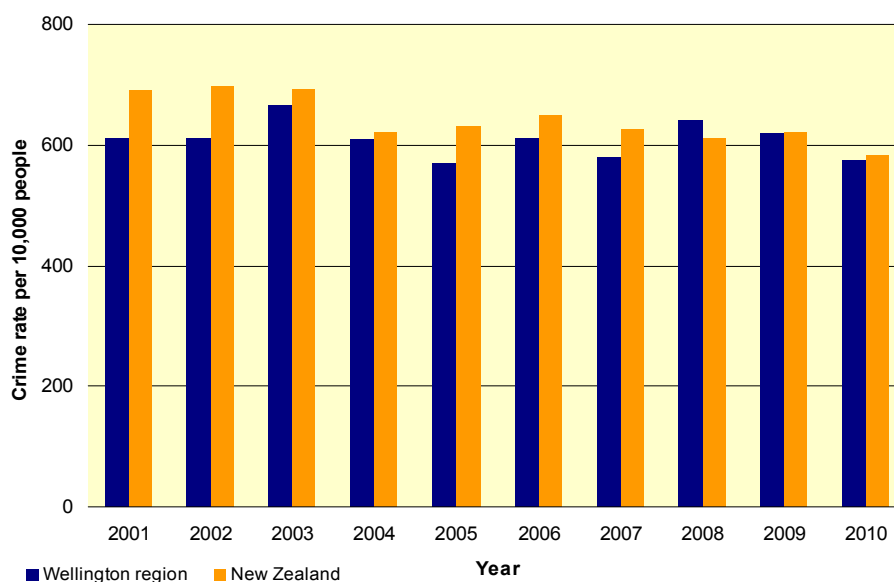
## 10. Recorded offences for crimes against property - rate per 10,000 people



**The rate of recorded offences for crimes against property is lower in 2010 than 2001**

Crime and fear of crime, impacts negatively on the community in terms of personal security, the attractiveness of an area for recreation, and on general amenity. The incidence of crime is both a cause and symptom of low quality of life, and is associated with poverty, exclusion and the need for support services.

**Recorded offences for crimes against property per 10,000 people, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Recorded Crime Offences

### Findings

- In 2010, recorded offences against property in the Wellington region were 576 per 10,000 people.
- Recorded offence rates in the Wellington region have fluctuated over the study period, but were slightly lower in 2010 than 2001.
- A similar trend is also observed for recorded offences against property in New Zealand. However, in general, rates for New Zealand are higher than the rates in the Wellington region.

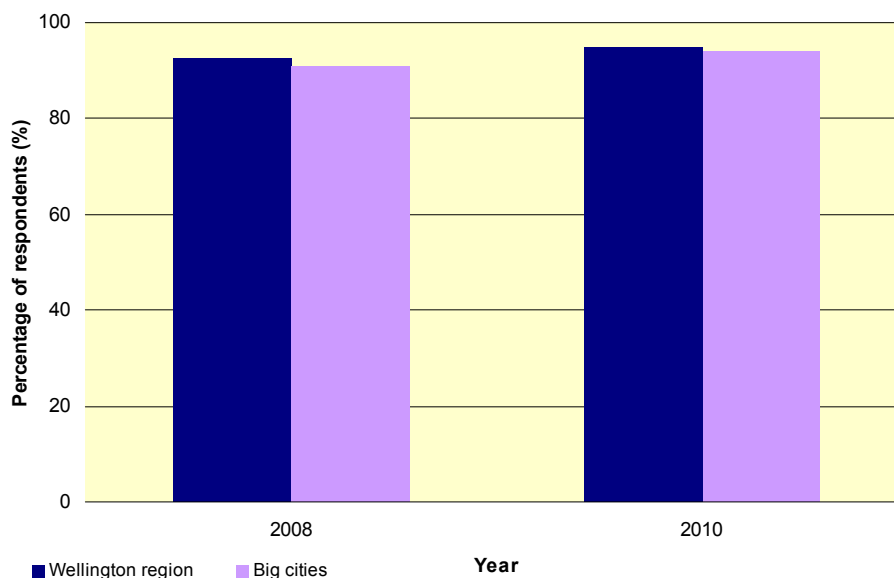
## 11. Ease of access to local parks or other green space



### Residents' perception of the ease of access to local parks or other green spaces increased between 2008 and 2010

This indicator relates to a person's perception of how accessible parks and green spaces are to them, and also to how that person feels within that space. Factors affecting access to open spaces can be social, physical or emotional and may include distance, isolation, social exclusion from certain places, and anti-social behaviour.

#### Percentage of residents finding it easy or very easy to get to a local park or other green space in their city or local area, 2001-2010



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

- In 2010, 94.8% of Wellington region residents thought it was easy or very easy to get to a local park or other green space in their city or local area, an increase from 92.5% in 2008.
- From 2008 to 2010 there was also an increase in the percentage of residents from the eight big cities that thought it was easy or very easy to get to a local park or other green space in their city or local area.
- In 2008, higher percentages of residents from the Wellington region thought it was easy or very easy to get to a local park or other green space in their city or local area. However, in 2010 the difference between residents' perceptions in the big cities and residents' perceptions in the Wellington region was not significant.

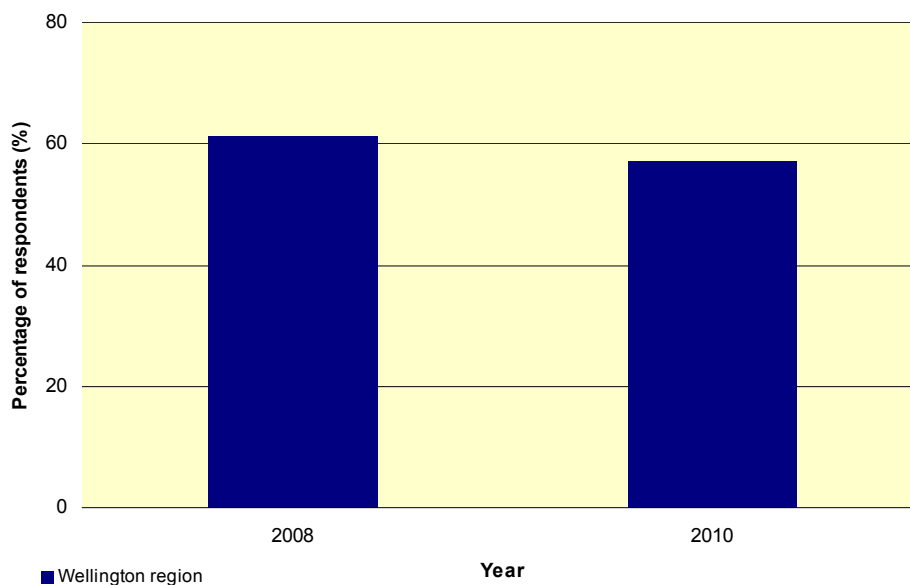
## 12. Participation in social activities



**There was a decline in the percentage of residents belonging to two or more social networks or groups between 2008 and 2010**

This indicator is a measure of participation in the wider community. Participation builds social cohesion and connectedness, thereby reducing isolation.

**Percentage of residents indicating that they belong to two or more social networks or groups,<sup>31</sup> 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

- In 2010, 57.0% of Wellington region residents indicated that they belonged to two or more social networks or groups, a decrease from 61.4% in 2008.

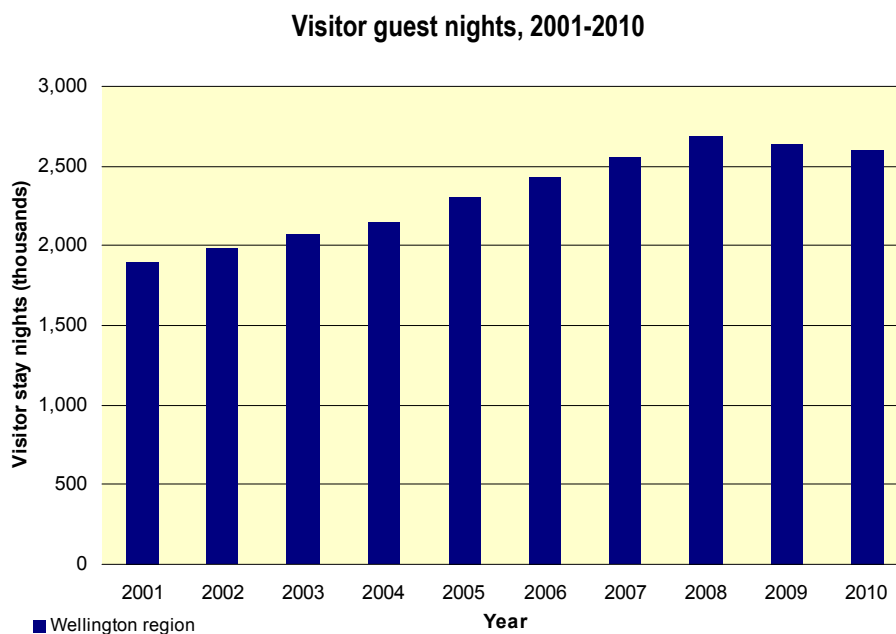
<sup>31</sup> Networks/groups include: a sports club, a church or spiritual group, a hobby or interest group, a community or voluntary group, a network of people from work or school, gym/walking group, age specific group or ethnic/cultural group.

### 13. Visitor guest night



**The number of visitor guest nights has decreased slightly over the last few years, but remain much higher than they were in 2001**

Tourism is a major contributor to the economy. Infrastructure developed to serve the visitor market also benefits local residents and adds to the quality of life in the region.



Source: Statistics New Zealand Accommodation Survey

#### Findings

- In 2010, the number of visitor guest nights in the Wellington region was 2,605,000.
- The number of visitor guest nights in the Wellington region increased from 2001 to 2008, but since this time has decreased slightly. However, the number of visitor guest nights remains much higher in 2010 than in 2001.



## Regional foundations indicators

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Regional foundations indicators have been selected to measure progress towards the regional foundation outcome definition goals for the region. Focus has been to the availability and reliability of services essential in modern society.

In total four<sup>32</sup> indicators are included in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework that form part of the regional foundations outcome area. Each indicator is assigned a symbol to represent how the data trend relates to well-being progress (refer to the symbol key in Table 1, page 14).

For a full list of strong and tolerant community indicators, including the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources refer to Appendix 2, Table 3.

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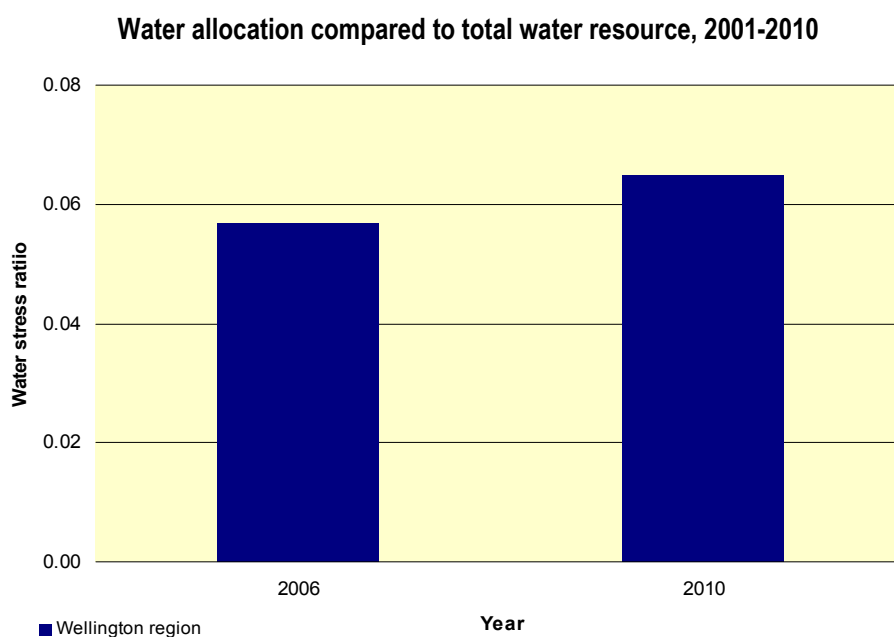
<sup>32</sup> There are five indicators included in the WR-GPI framework that form part of the regional foundations outcome area, however one of these indicators does not currently have a data source attributable to it so is not included in this report.

## 1. Water allocation compared to total water resource



### Water stress in the region has increased between 2006 and 2010

Fresh water is a finite resource, so competing demands for water use must be balanced with maintaining the resource. This indicator is a proxy measure of sustainable water use.



Source: Ministry for the Environment

### Findings

- In 2010, the water stress ratio (water allocation compared to total water resource) was 0.0649, an increase from 0.0568 in 2006.
- This increase is due to an increase in water allocation of this time. Despite this increase, water stress remains low in the region (ratio is less than 0.2).<sup>33</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Stress ratios: low – ratio less than 0.20; medium – ratio is between 0.20 and 0.40; severe – ratio is higher than 0.40.

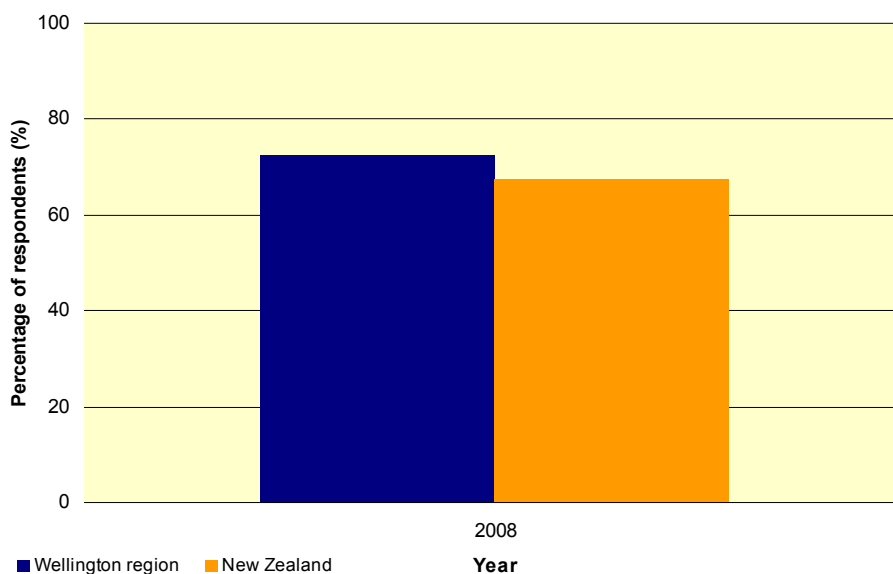
## 2. Perception of council services such as water supply, drainage, rubbish collection and roads



No trend data is currently available

Councils provide a number of services that are needed to achieve a good quality of life. Without high quality council services communities may become isolated and be affected by a number of health and environmental issues.

Percentage of residents indicating that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of council services in their area, 2001-2010



Source: Statistics New Zealand General Social Survey

### Findings

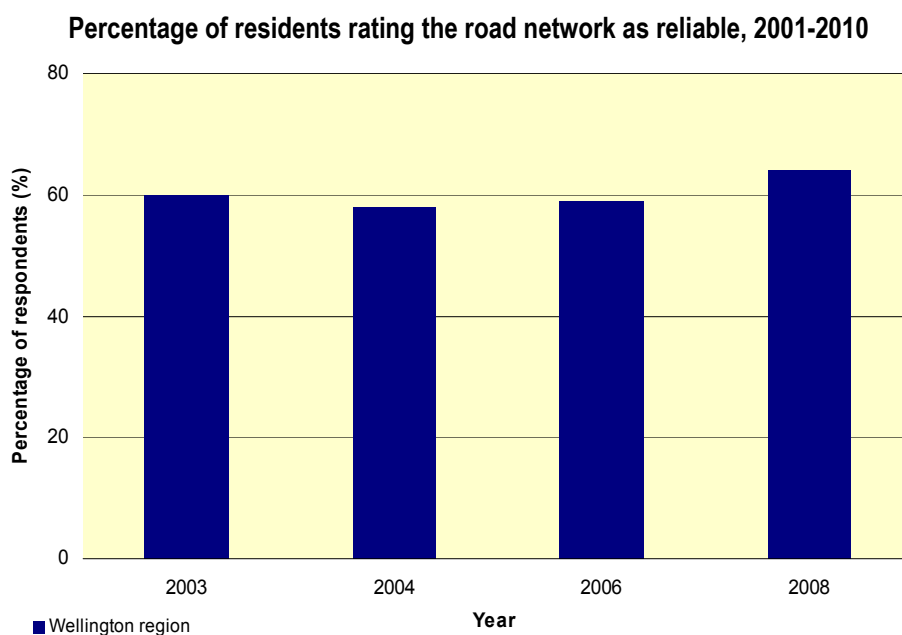
- In 2008, 72.7% of Wellington region residents were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of council services in their area.
- Nationally, 67.4% of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of council services in their area, which is lower than that observed for the Wellington region.

### 3. Perception of road network reliability



#### Residents' perceptions of road network reliability are higher in 2008 than 2003

Perceptions of the reliability of various forms of transport for getting around the region can impact on people's travel opportunities and choices. Reliability is also a measure for how well the roading infrastructure can cope with current and future demand.



Source: GWRC Transport Perceptions Survey

#### Findings

- In 2008, 64% of Wellington region residents thought that the road network was reliable.
- Since 2003, there has been a slight increase in the percentage of residents rating the road network as reliable.

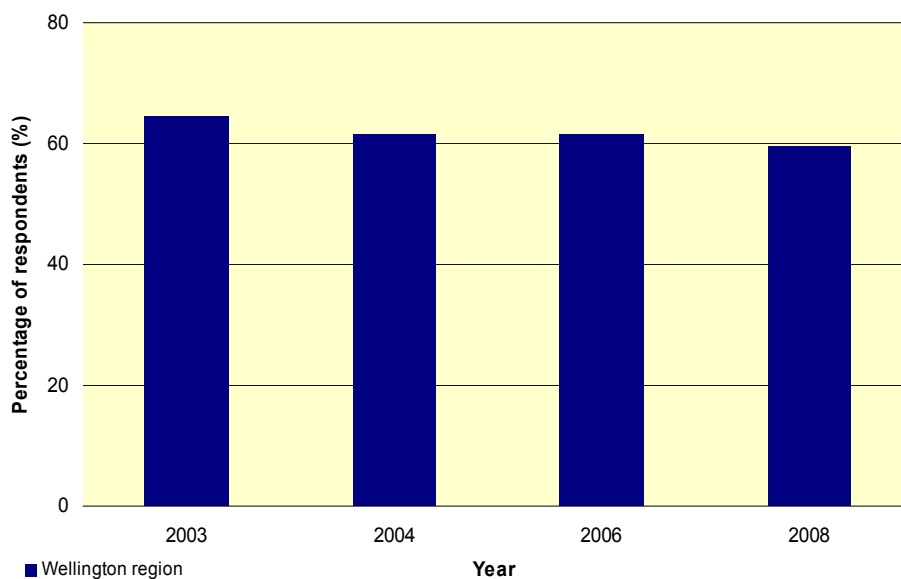
#### 4. Perception of public transport reliability



##### **Residents' perceptions of public transport network reliability have decreased between 2003 and 2008**

Perceptions of the reliability of various forms of transport for getting around the region can impact on people's travel opportunities and choices. Reliability is also a measure for how well public transport infrastructure can cope with current and future demand.

**Average percentage of residents rating the bus and train network as reliable, 2001-2010**



Source: GWRC Transport Perceptions Survey

#### **Findings**

- In 2008, an average of 59.5% of Wellington region residents thought that the train and bus network was reliable.
- Since 2003, there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of residents rating the public transport network as reliable.

## Appendix 6: Cultural well-being indicators

### Strong and tolerant community indicators

Strong and tolerant community indicators have been selected to measure progress towards the strong and tolerant community outcome definition goals for the region. The outcome definition emphasises the understanding that a strong and tolerant community is about participating and contributing to society, in ways that are inclusive and respectful of the needs and aspirations of diverse communities.

In total 12 indicators are included in the WR-GPI 2001-2010 framework that form part of the strong and tolerant community outcome area. Each indicator is assigned a symbol to represent how the data trend relates to well-being progress (refer to the symbol key in Table 1, page 14).

For a full list of strong and tolerant community indicators, including the indicator definition, its influence on well-being and the data sources refer to Appendix 2, Table 4.

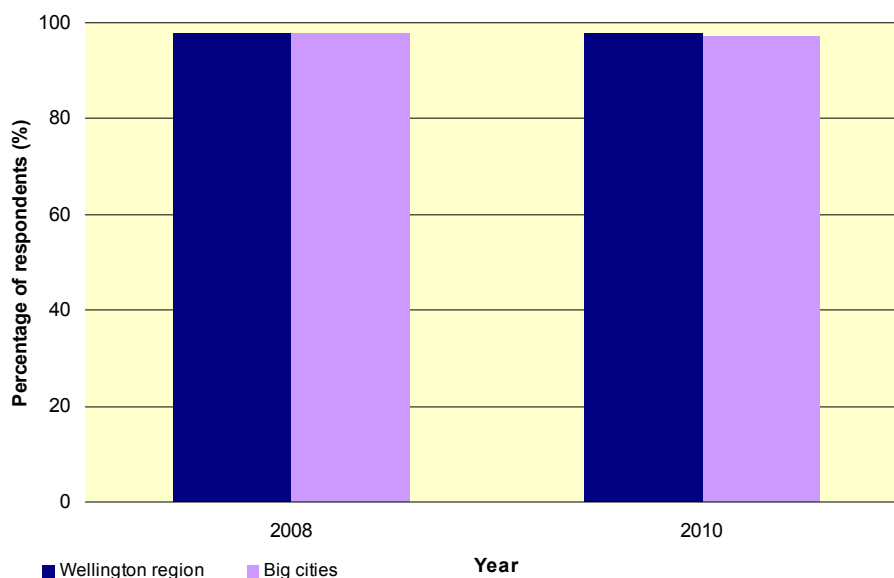
## 1. Residents perceptions of availability of support



### **Resident's perception of availability of support is unchanged from 2008 to 2010**

This indicator measures if people have someone to turn to for help and support during difficult times. If people have support they feel more safe and secure. This indicator portrays a sense of social cohesion in society and the contribution this social cohesion makes to a person's well-being.

**Resident's perception of availability of support, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### **Findings**

- In 2010, 97.9% of respondents in the Wellington region adult population had someone to turn to for support in a time of need.
- This is similar to the percentage for the population of the participating eight big cities.
- There has been little change in resident's perception of availability of support from 2008 to 2010.

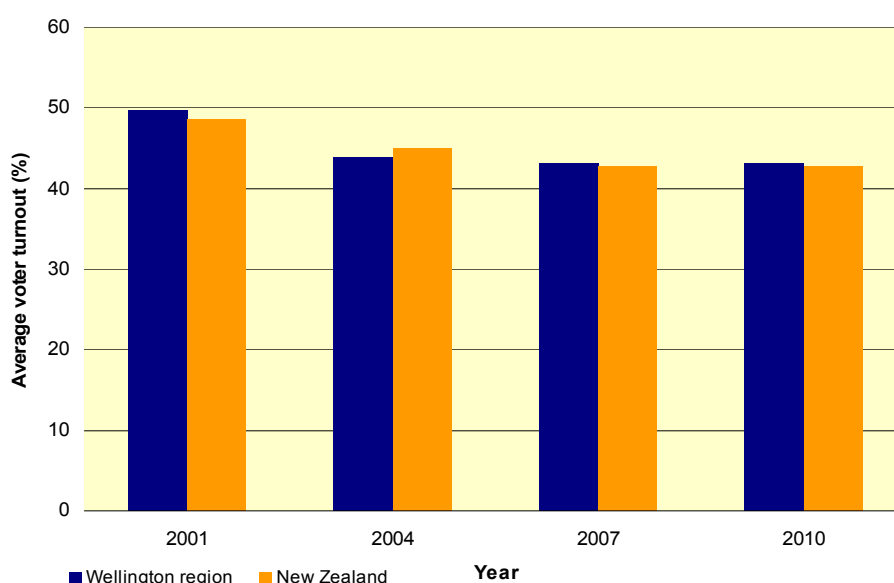
## 2. Average voter turnout in local council, DHB and regional council elections



**Average voter turnout has gradually decreased since 2001**

Voting is a fundamental way that people can express their political will. Energetic citizen participation in the political process and in civic affairs is a sign of a healthy democracy and also reflects people's sense of connection with the wider society.

**Average voter turnout in local council, DHB and regional council elections, 2001-2010**



Source: Department of Internal Affairs-Local Authority Election Statistics

### Findings

- Data relating to the 2010 local council, district health board and regional council elections was not available at the time of writing (so is assumed to be the same as 2007).
- In 2007, an average of 43% Wellington region electors voted at local council, DHB and regional council elections.
- In 2007, average voter turnout across the three elections was slightly higher in Wellington than New Zealand.
- From 2001 to 2007, the average voter turnout across the three elections has gradually decreased in the Wellington region and across the whole of New Zealand.



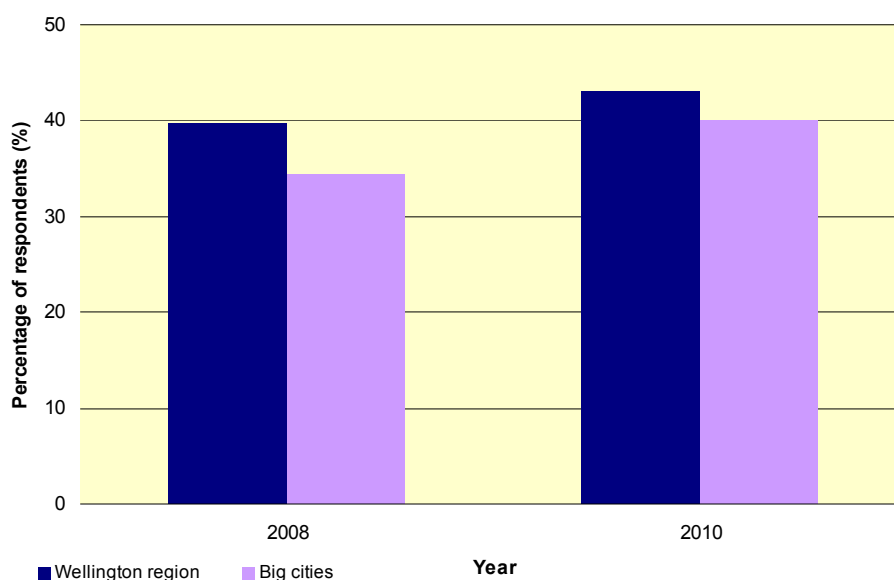
### 3. Perception that the public understands council decision making



#### **The proportion of the population perceiving that the public understands council decision making increased between 2008 and 2010**

Understanding of council processes plays an important part in the level of community involvement in decision-making. Trust and understanding of the decision making process is an important factor in obtaining participation and effective input from residents.

**Perception that the public understands council decision making, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

#### **Findings**

- In 2010, 43.1 % of respondents in the Wellington region adult population thought they understood how their council makes decisions.
- The percentage of the Wellington region that thought they understood how their council makes decisions has increased from 2008 to 2010 (39.8% to 43.1%)
- In 2008 and 2010 slightly higher percentages of the Wellington region adult population thought they understood how their council makes decisions, compared to the population of the participating eight big cities.

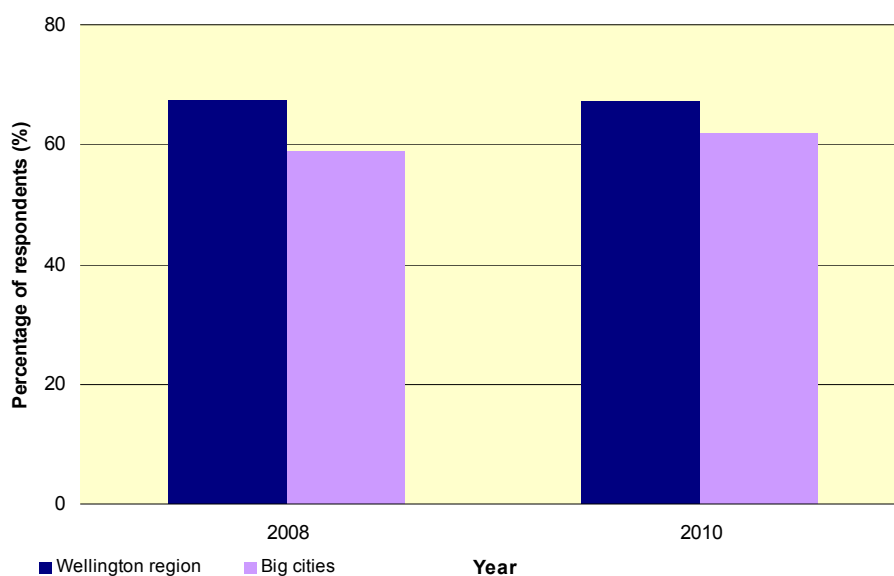
#### 4. Perception that the public can influence council decision making



##### **The proportion of the population that thought the public could influence council decision-making was unchanged from 2008 to 2010**

This indicator measures whether a healthy democratic process is at work. It is important that people feel they are being listened to and that diverse groups feel valued and respected by the community, as this may create a sense of belonging and pride in their community.

**Perception that the public can influence council decision making, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

#### **Findings**

- In 2010, 67.2% of respondents in the Wellington region adult population thought the public had an influence on council decision making.
- The percentage of the Wellington region that thought the public could influence council decision-making was unchanged from 2008 to 2010, whereas a slight increase was observed for the eight big cities (58.9% to 61.9%)
- However, in 2008 and 2010 slightly higher percentages of the Wellington region adult population thought the public could influence council decision-making, compared to the population of the participating eight big cities.

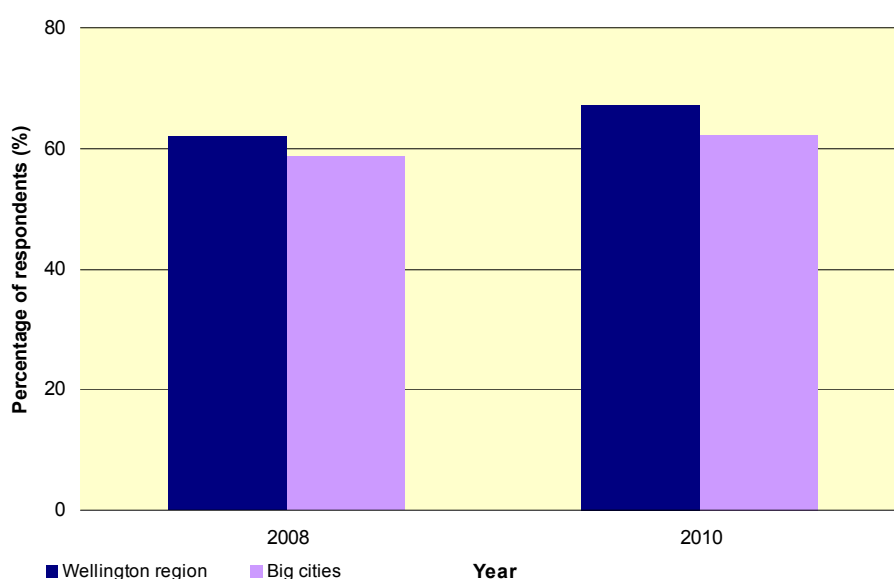
## 5. Overall positive perception of cultural diversity



### Resident's perception of cultural diversity increased between 2008 and 2010

Cultural diversity can make the community and the life we live much richer, with cultural activities contributing to social connectedness. A population rich in cultures and languages provides enormous social, cultural and economic benefit.

Overall positive perception of cultural diversity, 2001-2010



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

- In 2010, 67.3% of respondents in the Wellington region adult population thought that an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures makes their local area a better place to live.
- The proportion of the Wellington region adult population who thought that an increasing number of people with different lifestyles and cultures makes their local area a better place to live, increased from 61.9% in 2008 to 67.3% in 2010.
- In both 2008 and 2010, adults in the Wellington region were more likely to think that cultural diversity makes their area a better place to live compared to adults in the participating eight big cities.

## 6. Percentage of people who can speak Te Reo Māori

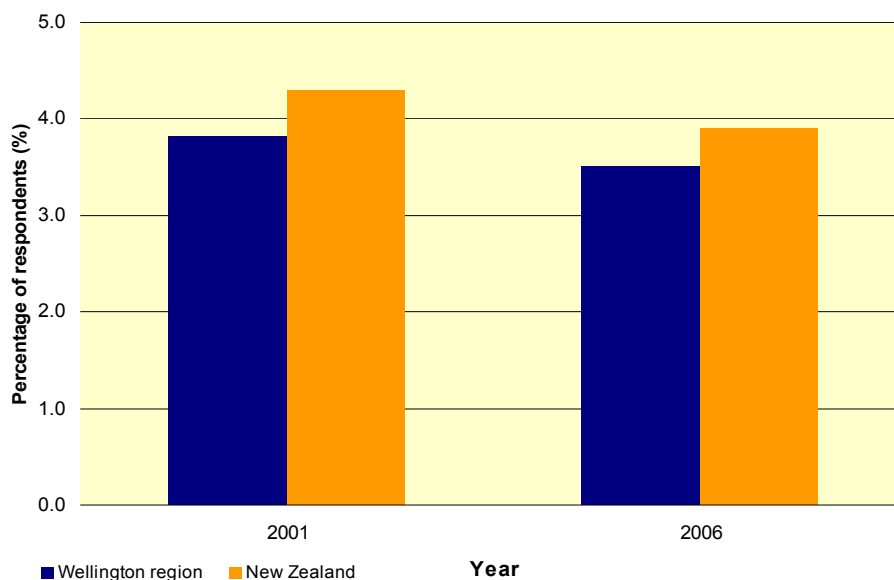


**The proportion of the population able to hold an everyday conversation in the Māori language decreased slightly between 2001 and 2006**

Te Reo Māori was made an official language of New Zealand under the Māori Language Act in 1987 and is one of New Zealand's three official languages. The Māori Language Commission states that:

*“the Māori language is a taonga that gives our country its distinct and unique cultural identity. For Māori to thrive as a language of everyday use, we must encourage its use in our homes and communities as much as possible.”*

**Percentage of the population that can speak Te Reo Māori, 2001-2010**



Source: Statistics New Zealand Census

### Findings

- In 2006, 3.5% of respondents in the Wellington region population could hold an everyday conversation in the Māori language.
- Over the last two census periods (2001 to 2006) there has been a slight decline in the percentage of the Wellington region population and the New Zealand population, that can speak Te Reo Māori.
- In both 2001 and 2006, the percentage of the population in the Wellington region that can speak Te Reo Māori was lower than the New Zealand average.

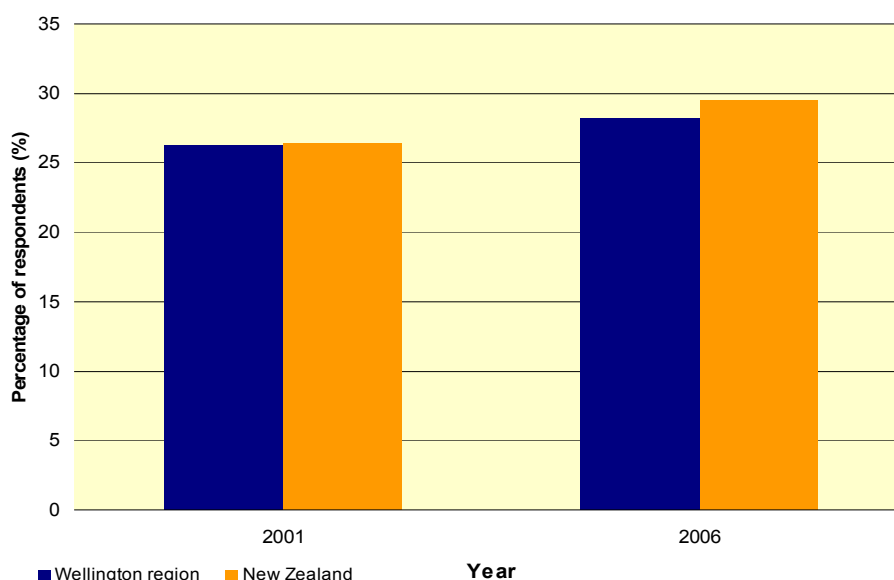
## 7. Percentage of population identifying with the Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups



### The proportion of the population identifying with the Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups increased between 2001 and 2006

Ethnic composition is a key measure of demographic change over time. The combination of cultures, languages, traditions and skills brings vibrancy to the region, which is reflected in cultural events and traditions. A good understanding of the ethnic composition can also help the region deliver services and plan for the future.

Percentage of the population identifying with the Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups, 2001-2010



Source: Statistics New Zealand Census

### Findings

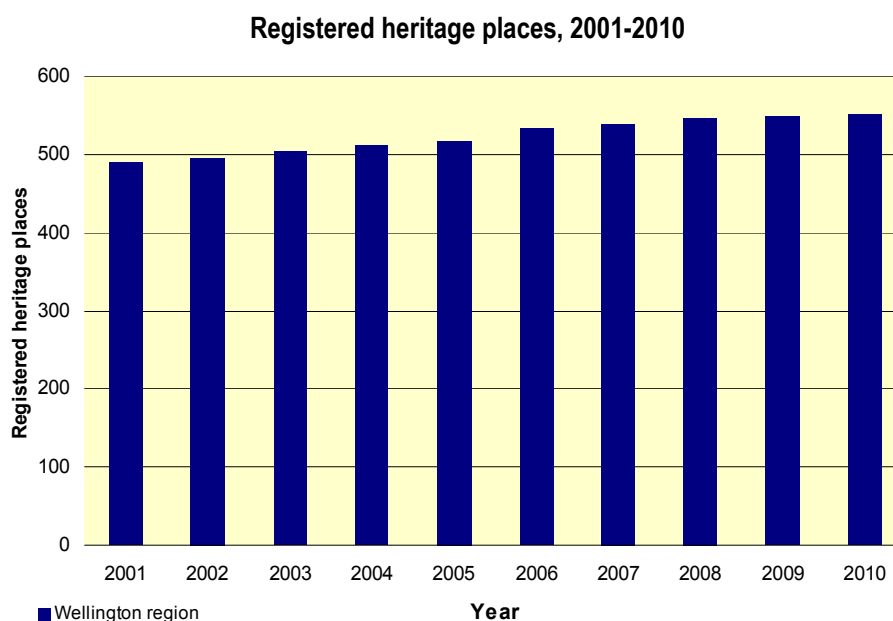
- In 2006, 28.2% of respondents in the Wellington region population identified with the Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups.
- Over the last two census periods (2001 to 2006) there has been an increase in the percentage of the population identifying with the Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups in the Wellington region.
- The percentage of the population identifying with the Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups was similar in the Wellington region and New Zealand in 2001. However, the rate of increase was greater for New Zealand between 2001 and 2006 resulting in New Zealand having a higher percentage of the population identifying with the Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups in 2006.

## 8. Listed and registered heritage places



**The number of registered heritage places has increased gradually from 2001 to 2010**

Retaining cultural capital requires passing cultural resources on to future generations. New Zealand's heritage provides a link to past generations and supports the understanding of cultural origins.



Source: New Zealand Historic Places Trust

### Findings

- In 2010 there were 551 places in the Wellington region listed or registered on the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register.
- The number of historic places on the Register increased gradually from 2001 to 2006. Whilst increases have occurred since 2006 it has been at a much slower rate.

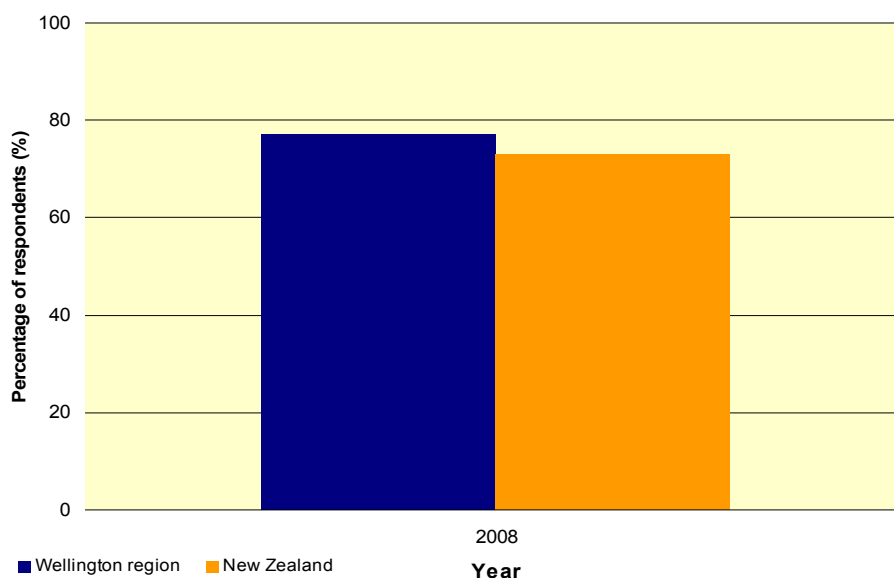
## 9. Perception of the role of culture and cultural activities in forming a sense of national identity



No trend data is currently available

Many things influence and generate a sense of national identity. Culture and cultural activities are aspects of community identity and social life, and they are integral to helping form a national identity, community networks and preserving social knowledge.

**Percentage of the population who believe that culture and cultural activities are important to New Zealand's sense of national identity, 2001-2010**



Source: Ministry for Culture and Heritage

### Findings

- In 2008, 77% of respondents in the Wellington region believed that culture and cultural activities are important to New Zealand's sense of national identity.
- Slightly higher percentages of the Wellington region's population believe that culture and cultural activities are important to New Zealand's sense of national identity compared to the New Zealand population overall.

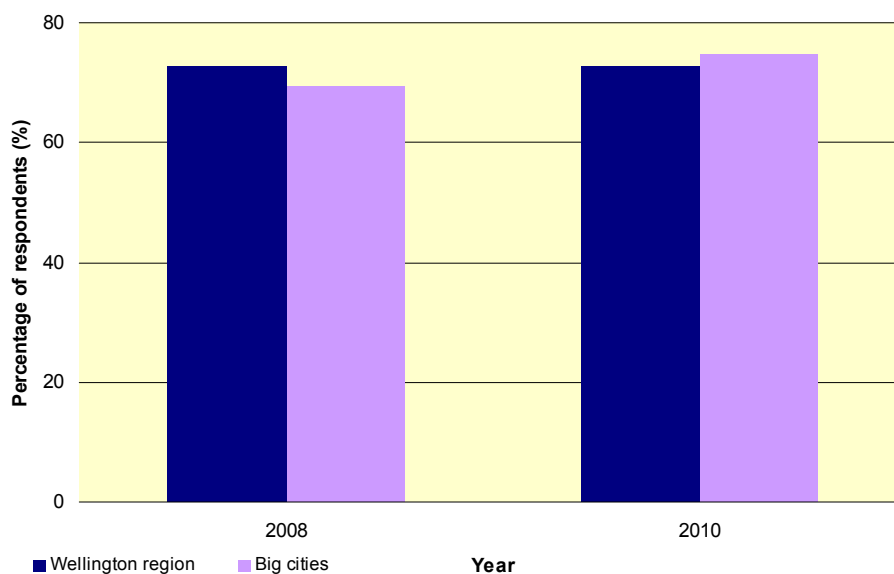
## 10. Overall positive perception of a rich and diverse arts scene



**There has been little change from 2008 to 2010 in the proportion of the population who believe their area has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene**

The arts make a strong contribution to community strength and identity, and are recognised for facilitating communication across social, economic, cultural and ethnic groups. A culturally rich and diverse arts scene also provides activities for people to engage in during their free time.

**Percentage of the population who believe their area has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene, 2001-2010**



Source: Quality of Life Survey

### Findings

- In 2010, 72.6% of respondents in the Wellington region believed that the area they live in has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene.
- Between 2008 and 2010, there has been little change in the proportion of the Wellington region population who believe the area they live in has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene.
- Between 2008 and 2010, the proportion of the population from the participating eight cities, who believe the area they live in has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene, has increased.



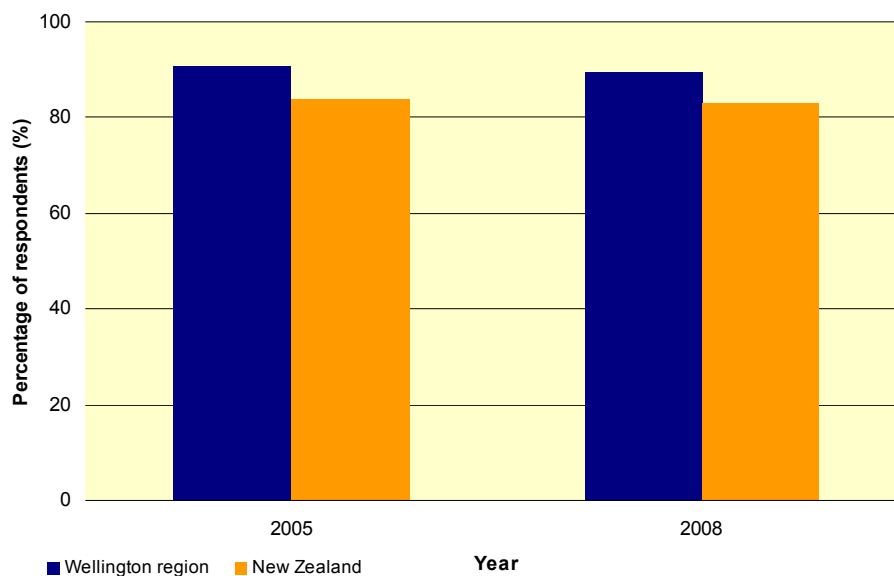
## 11. Percentage of people attending arts events



**The percentage of the adult population attending at least one arts event remained unchanged between 2005 and 2008**

Most types of arts involvement have a social dimension that is an important basis for building social capital and community identity. The arts, through their communicative power, enhance individual engagement with the world in ways that have both personal and public benefits. The arts sector also contributes to economic development through facilitating creativity, innovation and self-reflection.

**Percentage of the adult population that have attended at least one arts event in the past 12 months, 2001-2010**



Source: Creative New Zealand

### Findings

- In 2008, 89.6% of respondents in the Wellington region indicated that they had attended at least one arts event in the last 12 months.
- There was little change in the proportion of the adult population attending at least one arts event in the last 12 months between 2005 and 2008.
- In both 2005 and 2008 higher percentages of the Wellington region population indicated that they had attended at least one arts event in the last 12 months, compared to the New Zealand population overall.

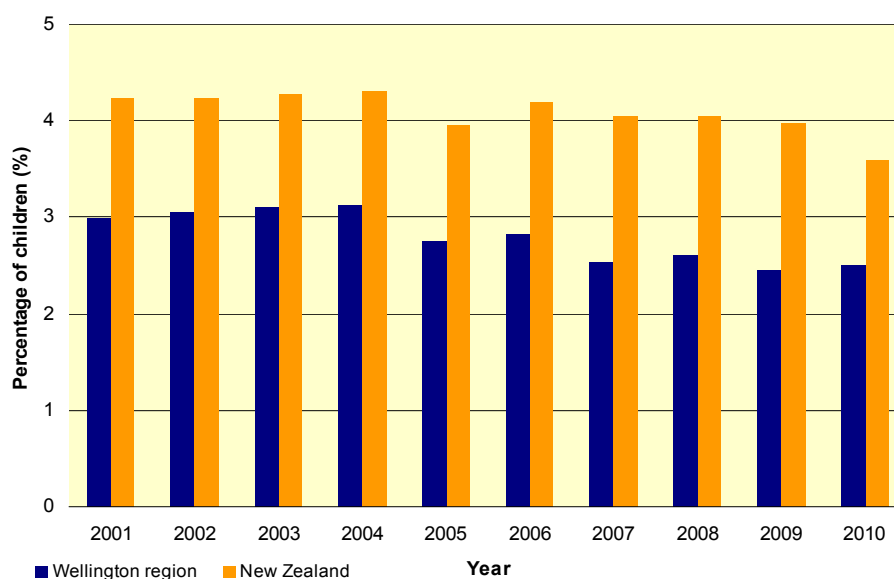
## 12. Percentage of children attending Te Kohanga Reo and Māori medium schools



**The percentage of children enrolled in Māori language based education services trend information has decreased from 2001 to 2010**

Kohanga Reo early childhood education centres and Māori medium schools deliver their educational instruction in the Māori language. Participation in learning the Māori language and culture is important for the retention of the Māori language and therefore the identity of New Zealand.

**Percentage of the children enrolled in Māori language based education services, 2001-2010**



Source: Ministry of Education

### Findings

- In 2010, 2.5% of children in the Wellington region enrolled in early childhood education and schools were enrolled in Māori language based education services.
- The percentage of children in the Wellington region enrolled in Māori language based education services remained relatively constant from 2001 to 2004, and then decreased between 2004 and 2007, and has remained relatively constant since this time.
- The percentage of children in New Zealand enrolled in Māori language based education services also remained relatively stagnant from 2001 to 2004, but has gradually declined since this time.



**For more information, contact the Wellington Regional Strategy office:**

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