
Our city is growing.
The District Plan is
up for review.

The decisions we make
now will shape the way
we live, for decades.

What you said

planningforgrowth.wellington.govt.nz

In April and May 2019, 1,372 people made a submission on the future shape of their city. In addition, 773 of you responded to a Planning for Growth Facebook survey, and 250 high school students made their views clear by giving the different growth scenarios a big thumbs up, or thumbs down.

The numbers are in, you had your say, and now we know what you want for your city tomorrow.

Thank you for being part of this important conversation. This is just the start, and we will keep you involved as we start to develop a plan for where and how Wellington city might grow.

This document summarises what people have said. You can see the full report on planningforgrowth.wellington.govt.nz

“ One of Wellington’s fabulous attributes is that we can walk around our city, consequently having density retains that feeling of community I get when I bump into friends on the street.”

Remember those challenges

Our city is growing. The District Plan is up for review, and the decisions we make together now will shape the way we live, for decades.

We know that Wellington will be home to 50,000 to 80,000 more people in the next 30 years. That’s going to have a big impact on how we live, the way we do business and get around our city.

As well as growth, we have committed to the exciting challenge of being a zero carbon capital by 2043. Our city is in the midst of planning for significant changes to our transport system, to move more people with less cars.

Wellingtonians value our compact urban form. We love that we can walk from one edge of town to the other. But we have our challenges - being a city that’s surrounded by water and prone to earthquakes has us thinking about how best to keep people safe.

Planning for Growth is our once in a generation opportunity to embrace the new, while protecting the things that make us uniquely who we are - a city that is green, compact, resilient, inclusive and connected, vibrant and prosperous.

The four scenarios

Wellington City Council developed four growth scenarios. These were not solutions in themselves, but a way for us all to think about the pros and cons of our limited options for growth.

<p style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">1</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Scenario One has an inner city focus with more high rise and density in the heart and inner suburbs.</p>	<p style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Scenario Two is about developing suburban centres with more town houses and low-rise apartments on the main public transport routes.</p>	<p style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Scenario Three involves the creation of a new suburb in Ohariu Valley.</p>	<p style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Scenario Four looked at extending into Takapu Valley, Horokiwi, and Owhiro Bay.</p>
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Each has their trade-offs - inner city living which would mean removing character protection in the inner suburbs, or developing new suburbs in the outskirts with plenty of space, but more cars on the roads. The decisions are hard, which is why we need your help.

Who we talked to

Engagement on the Planning for Growth scenarios ran between 8 April and 17 May 2019. We reached:

300
members of the public
at a three part Speaker Series held at City Gallery.

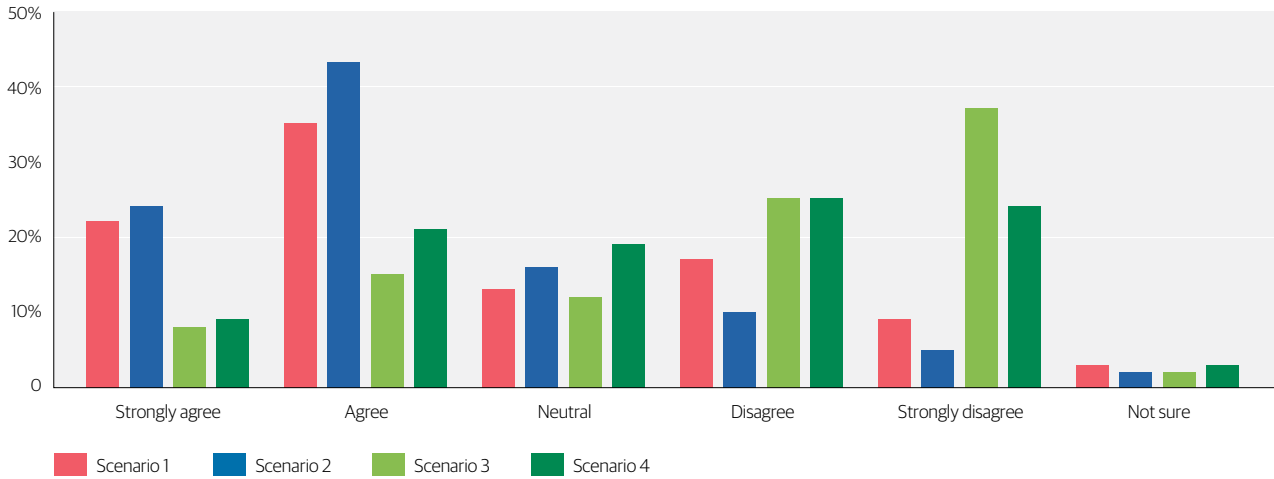
A two hour workshop
with representatives of the city's Residents and Progressive Associations and Community Boards.

22
events involving **300**
face to face discussions
at various community meetings, drop-ins and pop-ups at markets and venues across the city and suburbs.

Well over **100,000**
people online,
using video and a range of social media channels to engage people of all ages.

250
college students
who attended a Climate Challenge conference.

What you said



Scenario one - Inner city focus

58% of people agreed that **scenario one**'s inner city focus balances the trade-offs well. People showed strong support for keeping our city compact with more high density. They liked the idea of protecting rural areas and reducing sprawl with less need for commuting.

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"It limits the spread of Wellington into the green spaces and rural land that surround it. It puts the environment first, and that's what we absolutely have to do from here on in."

Scenario two - Suburban centre focus

66% of people said they agreed, or strongly agreed, that **scenario two**, with its focus on suburban development supported by inner-city growth, does the best job of balancing the tradeoffs. Submitters liked that less people would be living in hazard prone areas, and there is an opportunity to increase the economic and employment activity in the suburbs. This option retains our compact city.

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"I think there's a real opportunity here to build some very modern well designed town houses/medium density options that could blend well with character buildings that remain and this would create a leading city blending the old with the new."

Scenario three - **New greenfield suburb in Ohariu Valley**

With just **24%** of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that a new suburb in Ohariu is the best way to balance trade-offs, **scenario three** is the least preferred option. People were concerned about the impact this would have on the natural environment, more cars and emissions, and the cost of providing the infrastructure to support it. On the positive, people talked about this being a way to future proof the city, and incorporate best practice sustainable design.

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“Ohariu Valley is a unique rural community with so much history that should be preserved as it is. I do not think the amount of money needed to create infrastructure is a smart use of money and would only degrade a beautiful area that many outside the valley come to enjoy on a regular basis.”

Scenario four - **Greenfield extensions**

Only **29%** of people agree or strongly agree that the trade-offs are best balanced in **scenario four** by extending suburbs around Takapu Road, Horokiwi and Owhiro Bay. While people talked about this being good for keeping people clear of hazard areas, and protecting inner city character, these positives were offset by concerns over increased commuter traffic, carbon emissions and impacts on the natural environment.

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“I disagree strongly about the creation and development of satellite suburbs. It increases traffic and carbon emissions, and reduces the amount that can be spent on already existing areas.”

**You can see the full report at
planningforgrowth.wellington.govt.nz**

Facebook questionnaire

We ran a Facebook survey based on the principles of the main questionnaire. Our aim was to create a feedback option that we could include in the overall analysis.



773 people answered the questions

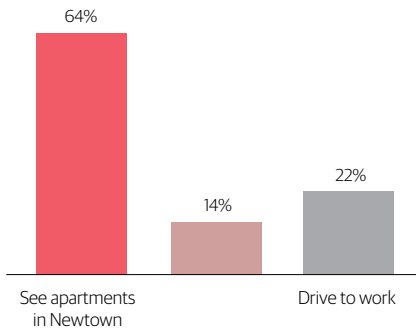
22% of respondents were 24 or younger

58% were under 34

How our Facebook community feel about where and how the city should grow came out much the same as what we see in the formal submissions.

Q1 Inner city buzz

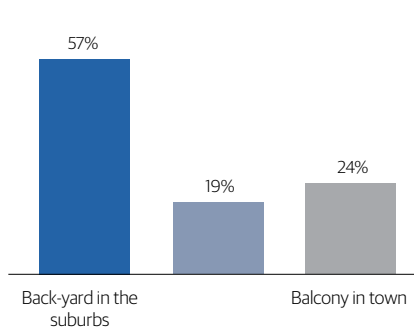
Would you rather drive to work than see apartments in Newtown?



A clear 64% preference to apartment living over spreading out to rural communities. There are strong themes about being a compact city, and people are consistent in their views about the need to reduce carbon emissions.

Q2 Suburban vibe

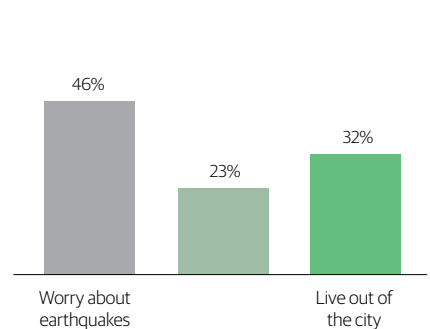
Would you rather a balcony in town, or back-yard in the suburbs?



This response indicates a preference for a bit more space in the suburbs away from natural hazards, over high-rise city apartments. It is the option with the most support overall, with people looking for that balance of a vibrant lifestyle with existing infrastructure and great public transport.

Q3 Country cool

Would you rather live out of the city than worry about earthquakes?



The least supported option overall, 46% of people said they are prepared to take the risk of living in a high risk zone over moving outside the city. We received strong feedback overall about people wanting less cars on the road, and reducing carbon emissions.

250 High School students

We were lucky to be invited to speak with a group of young people at the Wellington Climate Challenge Conference on 18 May.

Students were given a presentation about Planning for Growth, the challenges and trade-offs, and asked to show their preference by indicating where they sit on a scale of strongly disagree, to strongly agree.

The posters speak for themselves, and are consistent with the Submission and Facebook survey themes.



Inner city buzz
Walk to uni, small shared space, high rise living.

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

“My preferred choice – safe, larger living areas, not too much driving.”

“This seems like good middle ground, and also is similar to what many Wellingtonians are used to already.”

“Please could as many houses as possible have solar panels and heaps of trees planted by them.”

Suburban vibe
Take the bus, parks nearby, safer from quakes.

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

“Very fun, great sustainability, and exciting developments.”

“More walking and accessibility is good.”

“Good, but could ruin Welly heritage.”

Country cool
Drive the car, lots of space, away from hazards.

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

“It would be nice to live out in the country but lots of emissions from commuters.”

“I believe the country should be left alone. Trees should be left to grow in the greenery.”

“I like more space, however more CO₂ is bad. Definitely not my favourite option.”



Next steps

We hope you will stay involved as we progress from gathering your feedback, to drafting a plan for our city, to changing the rules and settings that will let us grow in the right way.

- > **February 2020** - we will ask for your feedback on a draft spatial plan for Wellington. The spatial plan describes how and where our city will develop based on what you said about the trade-offs in the scenarios.
- > **June/July 2020** - we refine the spatial plan based on your feedback, and present it to Councillors for their approval.
- > **Late 2020** - a non-statutory District Plan is released for consultation.

Talk to us any time.

planningforgrowth.wellington.govt.nz

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke