

This entire chapter has been notified using the RMA Part One, Schedule 1 process (P1 Sch1).

He Whakaaturanga o te Rohe

Description of the District

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Wellington City is New Zealand's Capital City, lying at the foot of the North Island. The City is bounded by the coast to the south, east and west, and extends as far as Tawa and Horokiwi in the north where it meets the Porirua City and Hutt City boundaries respectively.

The City has a land area of approximately 2,900ha and a population of ~~244,200~~¹ 219,016 (2021)¹. The City's population is ageing with a higher number of the population aged between 20 and 50 years, compared with the rest of New Zealand. The City has a strong tertiary sector which attracts young people. This means the City will continue to be home for both young and older residents.

The City's topography has meant that urban development has been well-contained within a relatively small footprint. The City's townbelt and outer greenbelt have also helped to maintain this compact form while also providing extensive areas of open space in close proximity to the urban area.

As the country's seat of Government, a large proportion of the population is employed in the Government sector, located in the city centre. The City serves as a major regional hub for employment, with a large number of people commuting from outside of the City for work each day.

Wellington provides the northern link for State Highway 1 and the main trunk railway between the North Island and the South Island. Wellington Harbour (Te Whanganui-a-Tara) is an important New Zealand port, for a range of exports and imports. Wellington Airport is the third biggest passenger airport in New Zealand.

The City's population is expected to grow by 50,000 to 80,000 more people by 2050, and with that growth will come a significant change in the City's built form. A broader range of living and working environments will be needed across the City, with denser development in the City Centre, along major public transport routes, and in and around key centres such as Johnsonville, Kilbirnie, and Tawa.

At the same time, the City needs to respond to climate change and ensure that new development supports the City's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. This can be achieved through changes to how and where new development occurs, and how people move around the City.

¹~~Stats NZ (2018) New Zealand Census - Sense Partners population forecasts for 2020 to 2051~~