

Report 09.55  
Date 9 March 2009  
File WRS/09/01/01

Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee  
Author Melanie Thornton Project Leader  
Victoria McGregor Policy Advisor

## Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index Monitoring Framework

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to adopt the Wellington Regional Genuine Progress Index (GPI) monitoring framework.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. GPI development process

The GPI working group determined a two-phase process for developing the GPI.

#### Phase 1:

- development of a GPI monitoring framework (March 2009)
- gathering of data (April – June 2009)
- reporting on framework (August-October 2009)

**Phase 2:** Undertake full cost accounting of selected accounts (decision to proceed yet to be decided).

It is planned that the Wellington region GPI will have the ability to be built on and further developed over time. Its main focus is to provide a picture of the well-being of the region. After the working group do the first collection of data, there may be a need to change some of the indicators depending on availability of data.

## 4. GPI monitoring framework

### 4.1 WRS community outcomes

The GPI framework for the Wellington region GPI is based on the WRS Outcomes. These outcomes are high level outcomes that embody a range of aspirations for the region that are aimed at underpinning the goals of the WRS for Wellington to become an “internationally competitive” region.

### 4.2 Indicators

#### 4.2.1 Selection

Indicators were chosen to specifically reflect the descriptions of each of the community outcomes. In some cases the descriptions limited the range of indicators that could have been selected. Indicators were chosen to capture several aspects of each outcome and in most cases to provide a sensible set of indicators. Overall there was the recognition that not all indicators will capture everything. It was also considered important to keep indicator numbers somewhat contained.

The GPI working group developed a set of criteria to assist with the selection of indicators (see **Attachment 1**). In determining the criteria, the working group analysed a number of other criteria from central and local government including Statistics NZ, Quality of Life, Te Puni Kokiri and other regional councils. The GPI working group decided that when analysing whether or not an indicator was appropriate for the GPI, greater importance be given to the following indicator selection criteria:

- reliable
- valid
- repeatable
- shows change
- leading indicator

#### 4.2.2 Headline and secondary indicators

GPI indicators for each Community Outcome are divided into Headline and Secondary indicators. Headline indicators provide the key, most important indicators to give a picture of what’s happening within each Community Outcome. Secondary Indicators provide contextual information on the background to those Headline indicators or additional information that may broaden the overall picture of the outcome in question.

#### 4.2.3 Tangata whenua specific indicators

The WRS recognises the special role of Tangata Whenua in the Wellington region. Maori-specific measures have been developed in liaison with Greater Wellington’s iwi advisory group Ara Tahi. Where the data is available, these

indicators have been selected as part of the monitoring framework. In some instances where data is not currently collected the measures have been added to a list of indicators we might like to have in the GPI (see below “Future GPI Indicators”). However, indicators in the GPI may be disaggregated to the level of age, sex and ethnicity which will enable us to report on a range of indicators of particular significance to tangata whenua.

#### 4.2.4 Review of indicators

The choice of indicators was also based on feedback received at workshops held with the WRS Committee, Greater Wellington’s Sustainability Committee and Ara Tahi. In addition, a workshop with the Population Health Division of the Planning and Funding Directorate of the Capital and Coast District Health Board helped in the formulation of health measures for the Healthy Community outcome. Consultation with Greater Wellington staff responsible for the Regional Policy Statement also helped inform the selection of indicators. A group of external experts were also asked to review and provide comments on the indicator set (see **Attachment 2**).

#### 4.2.5 Summary of GPI indicators

**Attachment 3** provides a full set of indicators that form the basis of the Monitoring Framework for the GPI. Listed below are summaries of the approach taken for the selection of indicators under each Community Outcome

##### **Prosperous Community**

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

Focus has been given to regional GDP to capture the economic activity of the whole region. There are also indicators for aspects of the workforce, levels of unemployment and household income. The latter gives an idea of the wealth of the community. Secondary contextual indicators cover the retail sector, building consents and the value of the unpaid economy (volunteers) since research has shown that people spend more time in unpaid work than they do in market work. There is cross-over between the Prosperous Community and Entrepreneurial & Innovative outcomes, which both measure aspects of economic well-being.

##### **Connected Community**

*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 well with others, both within and outside the region. (WRS Outcome definition)*

A range of indicators have been included to cover active and passive transport modes, access to public and private transport and public transport reliability. Access to public and private transport increases access to employment, education & medical services as well as access to the wider community. An

integrated network can inform us about the levels of mobility that are possible through good infrastructure. Broadband was identified as a priority in the strategy for stimulating economic growth and connectivity so certain indicators reflect this. There is an overlap with the Healthy Environment outcome indicator set.

### **Entrepreneurial & Innovative Community**

*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. (WRS Outcome definition)*

Focus has been given to research and development activity as well as the number of business start-ups. These link to business confidence and activity. Secondary and more contextual information around employment levels in the research and higher education sectors and proportion of GDP spent on research and development, help to provide a story around the uptake of innovation and entrepreneurialism in the Wellington regional economy. There is a cross-over between the Entrepreneurial & Innovative and Prosperous Community outcomes, as both measure aspects of economic well-being.

### **Healthy Environment**

*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.*

Indicators cover aspects of the physical environment. Many of the indicators chosen focus on the quality aspect of the environment with less emphasis on having resources in sufficient quantity. This is largely due to a lack of data being available in this area at a regional level. Indicators also reflect more contextual aspects of the environment such as resource depletion, soil degradation and habitat quality. Indicators around surface and groundwater availability and use – minimum flows in rivers, % of allocation in rivers, groundwater aquifer use and allocation are currently being developed by Greater Wellington. It is anticipated that these indicators will be included in this data set once the data becomes available. There are linkages to Connected Community indicators.

### **Quality Lifestyle**

*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 can mean different things to different people. The aim was to select indicators that cover a mix of the elements that contribute to the well-being of most people. Topics such as crime, leisure time activities, waiting lists for state houses, tourism, happiness, affordable housing, work/life balance,

diversity of arts scene and access to local parks and green spaces were considered suitable to provide a broad-ranging assessment of quality of life. The arts make a strong contribution to community strength & identity and are recognised for facilitating communication across social, economic, cultural & ethnic groups. Levels of graffiti and vandalism give an indication of how people perceive the safety of their communities. Many of the indicators are perception ones that have been sourced from the regional sample of the Quality of Life survey. There are linkages between Quality Lifestyle, Sense of Place and Strong and Tolerant Community indicators.

### **Sense of Place**

*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.*

Social cohesion, pride and sense of community are the main elements focussed on. Most of these are perception indicators. Volunteer numbers have been included as increased numbers are often linked to a sense of community spirit, stronger connectiveness to the community as well as to the needs of the community. There are linkages to Quality Lifestyle and Strong and Tolerant community outcomes.

### **Regional Foundations**

*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.*

High quality and secure essential services to meet everyday needs are the cornerstone of regional foundations. Indicators relating to security of supplies for water, electricity, gas as well as access to roading have been included in this dataset. There is limited information at a regional level on some of the essential services as councils measure these in different ways. There are linkages to Connected Community and Healthy Environment indicators.

### **Healthy Community**

*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.*

Indicators capture elements of health services, physical and mental health measures, as well as social factors and aspects of the environment (air, water, transport, recreation) that are related to health outcomes. We have recognised that poverty and socio-economic factors are key indicators for health which have been captured by housing overcrowding and deprivation index indicators. Some indicators are very high-level and capture several aspects of the health picture for the region. Not all indicators capture everything. There are linkages to the Healthy Environment indicator set.

## **Strong & Tolerant Community**

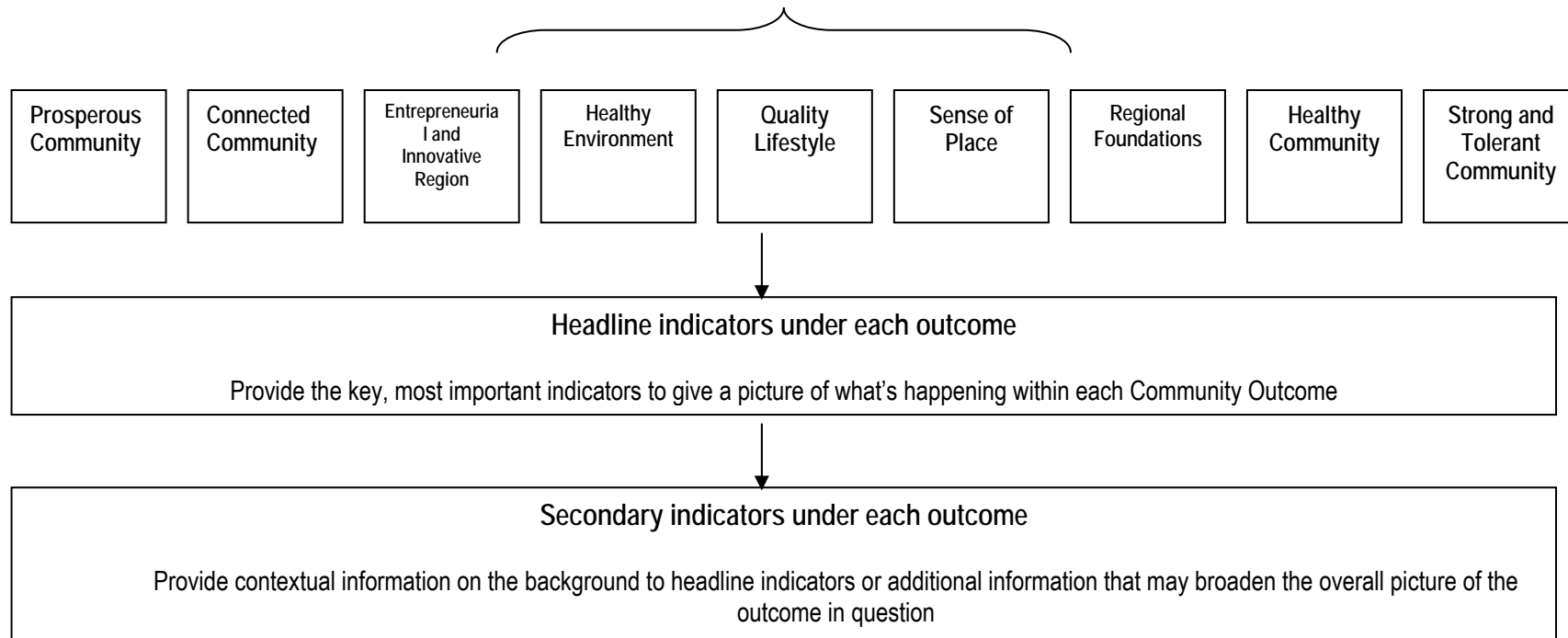
*People are important. All members of our community are empowered to participate in decision-making and to contribute to society. We celebrate diversity and welcome newcomers, while recognising the special role of tangata whenua.*

Indicators selected cut across the three areas of diversity, the special role of tangata whenua and participation in decision making. It should be noted that a number of indicators that relate to tangata whenua cut across the other outcome areas and where possible will be disaggregated by ethnicity. There are linkages to Sense of Place and Quality Lifestyle outcomes.

Diagram 1 below shows the GPI monitoring framework conceptually.

## WRS community outcomes

The high level outcomes the Wellington region wants from a sustainable economic growth strategy



**Diagram 1: Wellington Regional Strategy GPI monitoring conceptual framework**





### **4.3 Data collection and sources**

Indicators used in the Wellington region GPI largely come from existing sources (e.g. Statistics New Zealand, Quality of Life survey, Ministry of Social Development Social Report, Ministry of Health surveys). Other data sources include councils in the region and the Ministry of Education.

Where data is disaggregated to the territorial authority level, it will be made available to all councils.

### **4.4 GPI indicators: gaps and future measures**

In some instances there are inadequate measures for the kinds of areas we are interested in reporting on. For instance, one of the key aspects of the Strategy is around innovation and entrepreneurship. However, there are no consistent and agreed-upon measures for this at present. When any measures do become available and data is gathered regularly, they will be assessed for inclusion in the GPI. Measures such as patent applications and the number of high-growth businesses were considered but upon consultation with experts in the field, were deemed unsuitable for the GPI.

It was identified that in order to provide a fuller picture of what's happening within each Community Outcome, certain indicators that don't currently exist would provide a clearer picture. The GPI Working Group has identified a list of aspirational indicators. If the data for these indicators does become available and does fit within our selection criteria for indicators, these indicators will be included in the framework.

- Perceptions of migrants arriving in Wellington region
- Knowledge survey – questioning knowledge about nutrition, climate change, health, politics
- Perceptions of people returning to Wellington region
- Value of business assets
- Class I and II land – risks from subdivision/land intensification
- Surface water availability and use – minimum flows in rivers, % of allocation in rivers
- Groundwater availability and use aquifers with trigger levels, % of aquifers allocated for use
- Water is supplied to meet present and future generations for 1:50 year drought standard

- Number of total population who can speak Te Reo Maori
- Amount of renewable energy produced in the region
- Number of Maori businesses in region
- Measures of innovation and entrepreneurship

## **5. How will the GPI be reported?**

A comprehensive report on all the indicators will be written and presented to the WRS Committee in either October or December 2009. This date will be dependant on availability of data. Since this is the first year for producing a report it may be difficult to determine trends for data. But it will provide a baseline from which future reports can be compared.

The report can provide detail and analysis on each Community Outcome and provide a comprehensive picture of the well-being of the Wellington region.

All indicators will be weighted equally.

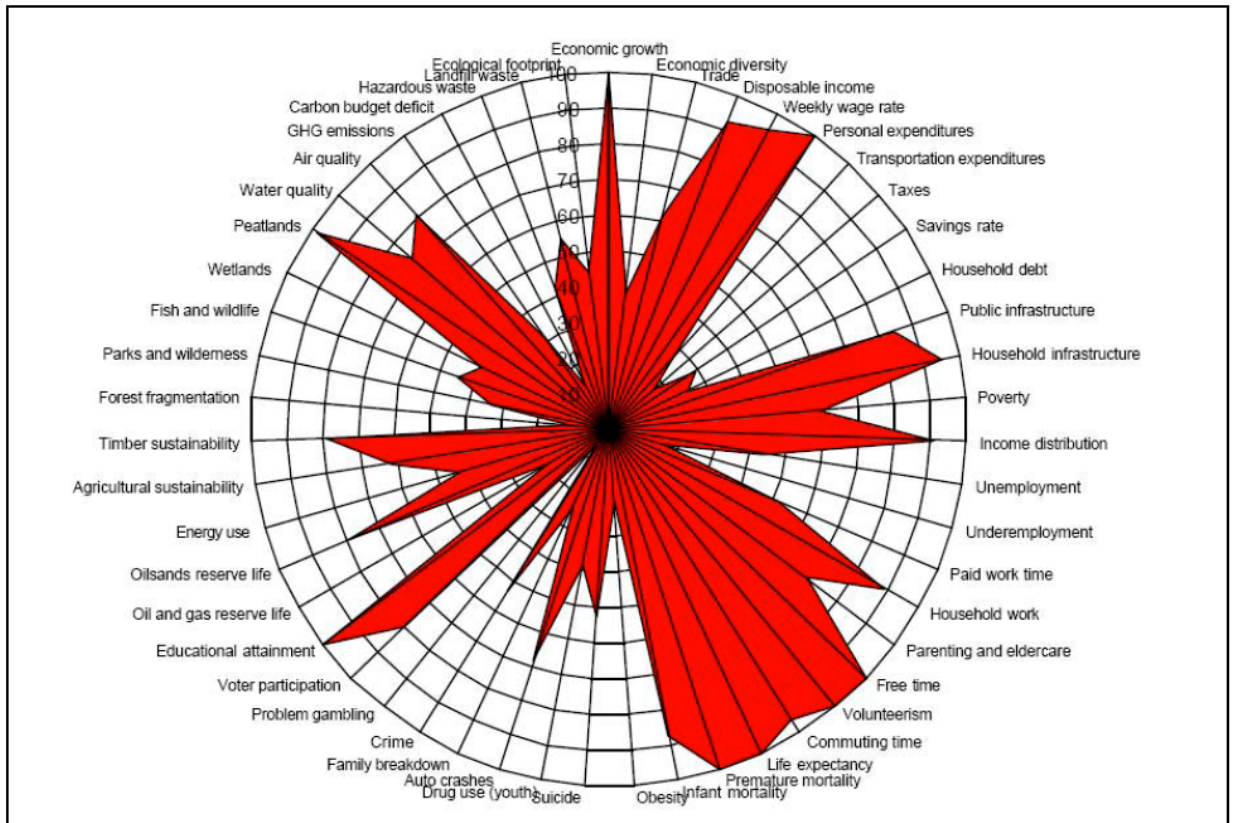
It could also report on data and other information according to grouped Community Outcomes (such as Prosperous Community together with Innovative & Entrepreneurial Community since both measure the economic well-being of the region) which may more closely reflect the four aspects of well-being, ie environmental, economic, social and cultural.

## **6. What could the GPI look like?**

There are a variety of ways in which we can report and represent the outputs from the GPI monitoring framework.

### **6.1 GPI indicator account portrait**

This GPI Sustainability Circle is a visual image of the condition of all the indicators relative to either a benchmark year or other best-performance benchmark. Below is the visual representation of the Alberta GPI (1999). A circle could be developed for each Community Outcome or for grouped outcomes such as Prosperous Community and Innovative & Entrepreneurial Community together.



It will also be possible to create similar ‘wellbeing’ circles for the four aspects of wellbeing e.g. social, environmental, economic and cultural.

## 6.2 GPI report card and indexing

A report card can be developed which shows the trend over a specific time frame for each indicator, or for each aspect of well-being and potentially for the entire GPI. An index can be created for each indicator by comparing each year’s data against the best year for that indicator. Then all indexes for every indicator under a Community Outcome can be aggregated into a single index for that particular Community Outcome.

For example using the indicator of GDP per capita, an index of 100 is created for the best year 1999. The trend can then be seen over a period of time 1961-1999 that GDP is increasing:

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING Genuine Progress Indicators	GPI Condition Index in 1999 (100 = best)(0=worst)	Highest Index Year/ Worst Index Year	Trend in the GPI variable 1961-1999	Description of Trend
Economic growth (real GDP per capita)	100	1999/ 1961	▲	The economy (real GDP, 1998\$) grew 400% in 40 years, representing a growth rate of 4.4% per annum or 2.2% per capita

### 6.3 GPI time-series graph

Once the Community Outcome and/or wellbeing indexes have been created it will be possible to view these results as a time series line graph. At that point it will be also possible to create an overall GPI value for the region.

## 7. Communication

A communications strategy is being developed to accompany the public release of the indicator framework for the GPI. This will provide some consistent messages for Mayors and politicians in the region to be able to talk clearly and consistently about what this framework represents for the region as a whole. It will also provide information about how it forms the basis of further work in the development of full cost accounts that will eventually make up the Wellington Region GPI.

## 8. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Adopts the Wellington Region GPI Monitoring Framework.***

Report prepared by:

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Melanie Thornton  
Project Leader  
Wellington Regional Strategy

Victoria McGregor  
Policy Advisor  
Wellington Regional Strategy

  
Jane Davis  
Divisional Manager  
Wellington Regional Strategy

Attachment 1: Indicator Selection Criteria  
Attachment 2: List of Expert Commentators  
Attachment 3: Summary Sheet of Indicators